

The Bible

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[0 : 00] I'm getting to it. Got it. Can you hear me? Am I on now? Okay, good. All right, take your Bible.

Go to Matthew chapter 4. Matthew chapter 4. Let me give you an overview. The Lord Jesus Christ got baptized at the end of chapter 3.

The Lord said, this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. It said in verse 1, then was Jesus led up. Of the spirit into the wilderness. It doesn't say where he was tempted of the devil.

It says to be tempted of the devil. The Lord set this thing up for a reason. And it goes through the temptations. And what I want to point out to you in verse 4.

And he answered and said, it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

[0 : 58] The devil tempted him again. Verse 7. Jesus said unto him, it is written again, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Verse, he tempted him again.

Verse 4. I'm sorry. Verse 10. It said, then saith Jesus unto him, get thee hence Satan, for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

The Lord, like I say, he didn't get blindsided by the devil after he was then hungered for 40 days and was weak in the flesh as a man. And the devil saw a prime opportunity to go try to tempt him.

The devil went there for a specific reason. And that was to lay down this format, this formula by which you and I have a defense against the devil.

How we can have victory over the devil. And it all goes back to the same things. It wasn't the bread. It wasn't that thou shalt not tempt. It was what he said. He said, it is written.

[1 : 56] Amen. The Bible is very important. Thank God for the Bible. This Bible Baptist church. Amen. Let me read you something.

This was in the front, the fly leaf, I guess, of a Bible that was given to me in the county jail 30, almost 31 years ago. And I wasn't even saved yet.

And this was in there. And I read it. And I read some things. Here's what the Bible says, what this says about the Bible. This book reveals the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Would you agree with that? Amen. Its doctrines are holy. Its precepts are binding. Its histories are true. Its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise.

Believe it to be safe. And practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. Whoever wrote this, and it's anonymous, I'll tell you what, he nailed it.

[3 : 06] It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here, too, heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject. Our good, its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever.

It involves highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

Owned, it is riches. Studied, it is wisdom. Trusted, it is salvation. Loved, it is character.

[4 : 11] And obeyed, it is power. We ought to have an invitation right now. Isn't that something? And that thing was sitting on my shelf for, I mean, 25, 28, 29 years.

And I started looking at this thing, and the Lord gave me a little lesson for this hour about the Bible. And I remembered that thing. And, of course, the book had been replaced.

That was my first Bible, King James Bible. And I had read it and got a Schofield. You know, it hadn't been opened in a long time. But, boy, it was right there on the shelf where it needed to be, kind of battered and worn and marked up and taped up.

But there that was. And I thought, wow, this is profound. I need to read that more often. Because it's true. Thank God for the Bible. That Bible, that word, the word Bible, it gets thrown out.

I want to talk to you this morning about the Bible. Let's just pray. Now, Father, I love you and thank you for grace. And specifically, God, I thank you for this book. And just like what I just read, the way of salvation was contained therein.

[5 : 19] And then, boy, a lot opened up after that. Bless this hour, all that have come, those that will come. God, I just pray you'd be pleased with everything that goes on this day and this week.

And, please, help me to say something that will mean something. And I pray it in Jesus Christ's name. Amen. And amen. Let me say it again. That word Bible. Now, we talk about the Bible. This is Bible Baptist Church. But specifically, we're talking about the King James Bible. We really are. The authorized version of 1611. I pulled in. Where was it? I pulled in Pismo Beach. We're going to pay \$5 and drive along the beach. Drive along the beach two miles. And that's a treat for people from Ohio. Amen. It was a lot of fun.

And so, when we're going on, the lady, she had to walk around the front of the car and get our license plate number. And I don't have a license plate on the front. It says, King James Bible, authorized version, 1611.

[6 : 18] She didn't know. What's her? I said, it's on the back. It's on the back. This guy, right on the back. You can get the little number. Amen. But, you know, that word Bible is precious to me and you. But if you were to go to a Christian bookstore, you might find something called the New International Version.

And many do. And you know what it says on the cover? Holy Bible. And the same thing goes for the American Standard and the Revised and hundreds of others.

And they're all very different from each other for various reasons. And the main one being the devil's goal is to corrupt the word of God. He started that attack in Genesis chapter 3.

Amen. But they all say Bible on it. Again, just for specificity. I think I said that right. Amen. I'm talking about the King James Bible.

Amen. I'll tell you what. The word in itself, in and of itself, declares authority. And it is so powerful that it's used in non-spiritual applications.

[7 : 24] Amen. For example, now there's something I was familiar with in the old days. There's a thing called the Shooter's Bible. How many ever heard of the Shooter's Bible? Amen. And it goes through and it talks about ammo and it talks about different weapons and it goes into detail.

And they're saying this is the definitive book on this subject and we're going to call it a Bible. Where did they get that? Amen. They're acknowledging the authority of our book without even realizing it. And so I got curious and I started looking around and there's something called a Fisherman's Bible. Amen. How many ever heard of that? Amen. Well, believe me, trust me, there's a Fisherman's Bible.

I don't read it because I'm not a fisherman. I tried it. A lot of preachers fish and I tried it. And I'd be on the shore of some lake or pond or river with some preacher friend or some Christian friend. And I bought all the gear because I can't do the shooting thing anymore. That's a long story. But I would fish and they would catch fish to the right of me and they'd catch fish to the left of me and I can't catch any fish.

[8 : 28] And I couldn't figure it out. I'm using better. I got better bait. And one time I'm standing there on the shore and I heard this faint sound.

And it took a while to recognize it, but it was like it was the sound of laughter. And what I finally realized was that it was the fish right offshore looking at me standing there with my little pole.

And they're laughing at me. And I said, okay, forget this fishing thing. Amen. There's a boating Bible. A boating Bible. And the one that really is interesting to me is the golfer's Bible.

Trust me, I never had one of them. Amen. But the word in itself denotes authority. For the Christian, it's our foundation.

Take your Bible. Go to Matthew 7. Matthew chapter 7. Now the Lord speaking, verse 24.

[9 : 28] Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them. Amen. I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock.

Conversely, the passage goes on to say, you hear these sayings of mine and you do them not. And it was likened to the guy that built his house on sand. They probably both looked fine, looked nice. Might have been identical until the storms came. Amen. The one stood and the one fell. And it said great was the fall of it. James chapter 1 warns us to be doers of the word and not hearers only. Because you can take it in and take it in and wave your King James Bible around, tuck it on your arm, and say I'm a Bible believer. And if you're not put in a practice that says in James 1, you deceive yourself.

And it goes on to say, which is a great warning, you deceive yourself, you forget what manner of man you were. Some of us clean up pretty good. And the evidence is by the way we look on other people around us, sometimes even people in church, it tells us that we think more highly of ourselves than we should in that we're warned about that.

[10:45] Let me tell you something. You forget what manner of man you were. You forget that but by the grace of God, you can be guilty of anything, anything you read about tomorrow morning.

I know that's true of me. Amen. You forget what manner of man you were. You'll forget what manner of man it was that went to the cross. And from that cross, the perfect incarnate God said, Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

And I don't want to forget that. Amen. And so it's our foundation. And Jesus said that. It's our source of comfort. Well, we're living in a day and age where I'm saying what?

I want people and Christians too coming apart at the seams. I'm glad I got a Bible. Amen. I'm glad I'm not waiting for CNN, obviously, or ABC or Fox or anybody else in the morning when I wake up to tell me what I'm supposed to think, what I'm supposed to fear, what I'm supposed to feel.

I'm not going. Somebody said, Brother Roloff said, when your circumstances go crazy, don't go with them. Brother Roloff said it. This world's going crazy.

[11:51] Well, it's fine. I'm not going. Amen. I'm glad of foundation. It's our source of comfort.

Romans 15 and 4 says this. For whatsoever things were written. There we go. A fourth time were written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

That's where my comfort comes from. I don't care what they're doing out there. And listen, I'm like everybody else, man. I got thoughts on it all. Amen. But at the end of the day, man, I'm glad I got a word of God that tells me how this thing's going to turn out.

Doesn't matter how it feels. We're on the winning side. Are you saved? We're on the winning side. Amen. And you know what? Paul said, I fought a good fight. There's such a temptation to get involved in the wrong fight.

And at the end of the day, man, we're supposed to point others to Jesus Christ. If we respond and react to everything the world throws at us just like lost people do, you follow me?

All right. Paul said it like this in 1 Thessalonians 4, verse 18. The context is death. Amen.

[13:08] The death of a Christian. And then he puts it in perspective by saying the dead in Christ arrives first. The Lord's coming back. Trumpet's going to blow. And listen, I got loved ones on the other side, if you follow me.

And I miss them. And if I start thinking about it, I'll miss them. I'll tear up a little bit. I was very close to my mom and dad after I got saved. Amen.

And I miss them. But I know where they are. Amen. That's a comfort. Say, how do you know?

Because it feels, no, it doesn't have anything to do with feeling. That Bible tells me some things.

It's our source of comfort. It's the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. Isn't that a catchy Bible believer slogan? I've been hearing that ever since I got saved.

Amen. I've seen churches that claim that. And some of the things that, the way they handled some of the struggles that came their way. But didn't back up that they believe that.

[14:05] But you ought to believe that. It's not just a catchy slogan. Psalm 119 and verse 89 says this. Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

Forever. I looked that up. It means forever. Forever. This King James Bible is so hard to understand, though. Amen. And I don't know about you, but that forever thy word is, forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

That sounds pretty final to me. Amen. In other words, things change. We've seen that. We've seen that in every level of our personal lives, in our spiritual lives, in our country.

Things change. I mean, I'm 68 years old right now. I never dreamed I'd be that old. I didn't live like I ever planned on being that old. And the Lord's been good to me. But, man, I've seen things change.

I'm not talking about on the national scale. I'm talking about in the Church of Jesus Christ. I'm talking about in our church. I'm talking about in the lives of solid Christians. I've seen things change. [15:06] Amen. It's part of life. Get used to it. Quit freaking out. Just rejoice in the fact that there's something that won't change. Thank God for the Bible. Amen.

Amen. My wife got a chance to talk to a gal one time about some issues in her life. And my wife's been in the Bible longer than I have. And so she'd open the Bible.

The girl said, well, this is what the deal is. And Susan would turn to an appropriate scripture and read that. And the girl, she knew. She's a Bible believer. You know, a lot of us claim to be Bible believers that maybe we should start working on being Bible practitioners.

Because there must be a difference. So she said, yes, okay, I see that. But, and then she added another detail to the scenario. And so, a reason to negate that verse as being applicable to her problem.

And so my wife went to another verse and said, well, the Bible says. And then she's going, okay. But, and I mean, I was bored after the third time hearing this.

[16:12] She said that went on for a couple hours. I mean, we'd bend over backwards to try and help people. But I'm telling you something. Listen. My wife finally just closed the Bible and said, oh, well, I guess this is all I got.

My opinion isn't worth any more than yours. And if the Bible doesn't work for you, I can't help you. And at the end of the day, isn't that the truth? Listen to me. The Bible does work.

The Bible works for anybody and for everybody. But you got to let it. You got to let it. You follow me? Listen, when that preacher came to jail, I didn't, I didn't trust him.

He looked like another fed to me. But he opened the Bible and I was willing to be receptive to what the Bible said. That resulted in me getting saved. Amen.

So let me just say, you're welcome to have your own thoughts and your own opinions. We have that liberty in Jesus Christ. But there's areas, friend, that at the end of the day, what say at the scriptures?

[17:13] And it's our final authority. All right? And so the Bible says of itself in John 17 and verse 17, Jesus said, Sanctify them through thy truth.

Thy word is truth. Well, you know why that should be important to you? We live in a world, man, where it's hard to figure out what to believe.

I mean, last year they're telling us one thing and then next year they're telling us something else. And this world's more mixed up than a termite and a yo-yo. And I'm telling you, it goes that way for some Christians.

I was in a church in upstate New York and the guy kind of laid back for a couple of days. And then he ventured out and threw some little conspiracy link catchphrase at me.

And I knew where I was going, man. He was trying to see if I was on the same page. And I just looked at him and he could see that I wasn't biting, you know. And he said, no, it's documented.

[18:12] Brother Spurgeon, I mean it. It's documented. You can read. In other words, don't take my word for it. You can read up on it. It's documented. And, of course, I knew where that was going and I just listened.

And he gave me the next step of whatever conspiracy he was promoting. And then, you know, still he can tell I'm a skeptic and he goes, no, it's documented.

It's documented. You can read about it. I said, like, on the Internet? Yes, you can look it up. Google this and go to this site. And I said, so let me just get something clear.

You believe everything that it says on the Internet is true? And, of course, then he knew. And he knew. I wasn't on board. And I said, man, I'll tell you what. If I knew my Bible as well as you know some of that stuff, and I'm trying to be nice, you know.

If I knew my Bible as well as you know some of that stuff, I'd be a better preacher. Now he's shut up because he knows his turn is coming. And I said, and if you knew your Bible as well as you know some of that stuff, you'd be a better Christian.

[19:16] Let me tell you something about all these conspiracies. I don't even care. I don't even care whether they're true or not. Who cares? Again, let's fight the good fight of faith.

Let's live it like we believe it. Let's point other people to Jesus Christ. I don't care if the world's triangular. I had a guy in Minnesota a couple months ago.

He said, brother person, I must disagree with you respectfully. And I said, okay. Okay, well, that's fine. He said, I believe the earth is flat. And I just said, I didn't say, you're cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs. I didn't say that. I'm much more grateful than the first time I came here. I said, okay. I said, give me a verse. And he pulled some obscure verse out of Job somewhere and showed it to me.

He didn't open his Bible. I said, show me a verse. He went, he had to go to his little website. And it showed me a picture, picture of whatever the, and I'm going, wow.

[20 : 18] I says, okay. I said, it ain't nothing like what he, I said, show me another verse. And he went, I said, son, you got to be real careful about, about formulating a doctrine from an obscure verse.

First, you compare scripture with scripture. And if something's taking you down a path, then it'll, it'll verify itself. And he said, oh, oh, thank you. He had never thought of it that way.

I could have chopped his head off. But he probably wouldn't be there. And I want him to be there.

Amen. He says, I believe the world is flat. You know what I should have said was, really?

But how thick is it? I mean, if it's square, how thick? I mean, I don't know. Is it like a brownie or what? I don't know. Amen. Amen. I'm glad I got the Bible.

It says, thy word is truth. Amen. Let me tell you something. The Bible's pure. The Bible's pure. It says in Psalm 119 and verse 140, thy word is very pure.

[21 : 24] Therefore, thy servant loveth it. So if you don't love the Bible, maybe you're not a servant. Maybe you're just a spiritual hitchhiker. You took the best God had to offer, the gift of eternal life.

But if that book doesn't mean anything to you, well, you're not. You haven't reached servant status yet. And if you ever do, you'll be glad. Amen.

You'll be glad. It says in Psalm 12, verse 6, the words of the Lord are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth purified seven times. It's a pure book.

It's the only pure book ever written. Again, the Library of Congress has around 30 million books cataloged. I know because I Googled it.

It's on the Internet. I believe it. Amen. And outside of a copy of the King James Bible, there ain't a pure book in there. Amen. It's a pure book.

[22 : 19] You ought to treasure it. You ought to treasure the word of God. It says, take your Bible, go to Job 23. Look at verse 12. The rest took so much of my time, I'm not even looking at the clock.

That's with all that singing. I'm not even looking up. I hope I get done in time. Amen. I'm kidding. Not. No, I am looking up.

I don't want to make him nervous, but I was trying to make him nervous, which I've never been able to do in all the years I've known him. Job 23 and verse 12, it says, Job said this, Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips.

I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food, which definitely means Job was not a Baptist. I have esteemed the words of his mouth.

Esteem means to honor and to respect. Matter of fact, we're to esteem one another better than ourselves, Philippians chapter 2. Listen, let me remind you of something you know.

[23 : 25] Christians, 500 years ago roughly, Christians were persecuted, imprisoned, burned at the stake for concealing portions of what we now have in our lap as the finished revelation of Jesus Christ.

Amen. That's a big deal. And we're a long way removed from making any kind of sacrifices like that, but there was a time, and, you know, in the scope of 6,000 years of history, it wasn't that long ago, people were killed so that we could have a Bible.

Let me say it again. That's a big deal. That's why we make a big deal of it. It's not just another book. It deserves to be esteemed, respected. It deserves to be honored.

Let me just say it like this. It deserves to be treasured. It's a valuable, valuable thing. You ought to love it. You ought to love it. Here's why. It says in Psalm 119 and verse 165, Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them.

You know, that's the only place in your Bible that the words great peace show up like that. The only place. Amen. And in a world full of turmoil and chaos and apprehension and fear and everything like that, loving the Word of God will give you peace in spite of it.

[24 : 52] Amen. And then it goes out and says that nothing will offend them. In light of that, to me, it blows my mind how many Bible believers are so easily offended.

It says nothing shall offend them. In the old days, in the motorcycle gangs, we could get mad at each other, get drunk, get mad at each other, fist fight, and go back in and continue drinking together.

Boy, these days, you look at a brother or a sister cross ways you made enemy for life, and to make matters worse, they get on a stinking internet and talk bad about other Christians before a lost and dying world.

Tell me, in the last days, a perilous time shall come. We're there, beloved. One of the songs we sing is, I love the old Bible, the precious old Bible.

And I'm telling you this morning, we'd all do ourselves a favor by loving that old Bible. Amen. We need to respect it. It says this in Hebrews chapter 4 and verse 12, For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is the discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

[26 : 08] Listen, we got some amazing weapons in our nuclear arsenal, but we don't have anything that can divide soul and spirit. I mean, we can do a job on joints and marrow, man, but only that book.

That's divine power that we underestimate. We don't take advantage of it. It says it is the discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. That means this.

When you open that book, when you're reading that book, it's reading you right back. Amen. It's discerning. What is that? Determining appropriateness. It knows what your motives are. Amen.

So you want to find a verse that says you can handle rattlesnakes? He'll give you one. I can take you right to it. But too bad the snake can't read. All right.

Moving on. That Bible is good news. It says in Proverbs 25, 25, As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so it's good news from a far country. Well, you're not going to get any good news from the news media.

[27 : 09] You've known that. Amen. But it says in 1 Corinthians 15, that Christ died for our sins according to the scripture, was buried and rose again the third day. According to the scriptures, you want some good news? You don't have to go to hell.

You can if you want to. Somebody said, Well, you're always telling people how to get their sins forgiven. What do you got to do to go to hell? I said, Nothing. You're fine. Just keep on the track you're on, and you'll end up there.

You can go to hell if you want to, but why would anybody want to? The good news of the gospel, of the word of God, is that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

I tried it. I mean, from a jail cell. It works. I got my sins forgiven. I ain't got over it yet. It's been 30, almost 31 years. I don't want to get over it.

I know some Christians that seem to have gotten over it. Shame on you. I thought so, I agree.

Amen. Bible salvation is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and the difference between what's going on and a multitude of churches across this country, what we acknowledge is Bible Christianity.

[28 : 19] I'm careful to throw the word Christian around. We're Bible people, right? That's what I'm talking about, the Bible. Bible Christianity involves a personal relationship with the word of God.

Amen. That's why you need to do all the things I've talked about. Let me wrap it up. You need to hide it in your heart. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

You know why we get in trouble with sin, and we're all susceptible? I get that. But some of us are more susceptible than we ever needed to be, because we're not reading the Bible.

We're not studying the Bible. We're not hiding the Bible. In our heart, the Holy Spirit, he might have moved in. If you're saved, he might have moved in. But you're not giving him anything to bear witness to. And next thing you know, uh-oh.

Well, the formula for that, go back two verses in Psalm 119 up to verse number nine. It's where, as wherewithal shall a young man, lady too, cleanse his way by taking heed thereto unto the word.

[29 : 18] It's a preventative, and it's the solution if you didn't take advantage of the preventative. It's important. Amen. Amen. And it says in Psalm 1, it says, verse 2, but his delight.

And that's the man that is blessed. His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate on it day and night. Listen, it's important to read it, but more than just doing it to put a check mark on a little Bible schedule, meditate on it.

Think about what it says. Look what it says. And let me say this. Psalm 16, and verse 11. It's probably just a coincidence. 16, 11. It says, Thou wilt show me the path of life.

I don't know where you found it, but that's where the path of life was for me. Thou wilt show me the path of life in thy presence as fullness of joy. At thy right hand there are pleasures any more, evermore, in a pleasure-driven society.

The closest thing you'll have to his presence on this earth is that book. And maybe the reason some Christians lack joy and focus and a burden and get so easily caught up in the cares of this life is because they're spending very little time with the Bible.

[30 : 32] Amen. Let me read you something. Someone described packing his bag for a journey. Just before closing it, he observes a small corner not yet filled.

He says, into this little corner I put a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a volume of choice poems, several well-written biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sharp sword, and a small library with more than 60 volumes.

Yet, strange enough, all that fit in a little space in the corner of my suitcase. And the guy says, well, how'd you do that? He said, I put my Bible in there. That's what that Bible is.

All those things. Amen. It says in Psalm 138, verse 2, I will worship toward thy holy temple and praise thy name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

Amen. Boy, that says something about the importance of the word of God, doesn't it? Amen. I'm glad I'm saved this morning. And if you are here, and not just glad, if you're saved, even if you're not glad.

[31 : 43] I know I can't read your heart. But if you are saved, it isn't because you're a good person or you came to Sunday school or you got baptized or because you never killed anyone. Say, where are you getting all that? Well, I've talked to people on a one-on-one level about their soul and those are the things you hear.

And if you're not familiar with any of that or you're not doing much personal work, amen. If you're saved, it's because the Bible told you how to be. Amen. Say, but actually, it was my grandma. Well, where do you think she heard it? It was my preacher. Where do you think? Don't you get it? This book's so important. Amen. And if you're in here and you're not saved, and praise the Lord, we're glad you're with us.

You need to be and you can be. He made it simple enough for somebody like me. Please don't die and go to hell when we've got the inspired word of God.

Telling us over and over every way it could be said that Jesus Christ loved you, went to the cross for you, and not willing that you end up in the wrong place.

[32 : 44] Father, thank you for this hour. Bless all that follows in Jesus' name. Amen and amen. Amen.