



**CAPITOL
COMMISSION**

Gospel Hope & Spiritual Strength for Government Leaders



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Bible Study: The Word of God Still Speaks!

The Capitol Commission is based on “gospel hope” which is anchored on the Holy Bible. Since many have either dismissed the Bible as irrelevant and/or outdated, this short study intends to dispel that thinking and inspire interest in reading God’s word.

The Bible stands alone among religious texts in terms of how it was written, how it was conveyed to us, and the authority expressed throughout. But is it relevant to 21st Century people? Yes! Here are three reasons why:

1. Distinctives of Scripture

- Written over several hundred years, across three continents, in four languages
- 66 books with 30+ writers, yet coherent (one author with a singular message of divine redemption)
- Weaves a story of salvation as being only the work of God Himself, not of any one human’s effort—too many generations pass for that to be true!

The fact we have such writings from antiquity, painstakingly preserved for us by centuries of careful hand transcription by the Jewish scribes, is an amazing testament in itself.

2. Why We Study Scripture

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

Paul, writing to fellow pastor and protégé Timothy, lists the reasons for studying God’s word for us:

First, it is not just the collected opinions or intelligence of other humans, it is breathed out, or inspired from the mind of God. The Bible itself asserts it is God’s word over 3,800 times! Students of His word increasingly understand we can never exhaust such content of divine origin, therefore you never complete the study. It stands to reason an infinite God’s message would carry infinitely deep meaning.

Capitol Commission state ministers are pastor-missionaries who in session teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for all those working in state capitols. The Bible studies are hand distributed to each legislative office and available by email and shared across the Capitol Commission community. This ministry is an extension of the church seeking to proclaim the gospel message and help believers mature through Biblical expositional instruction. Prayer is foundational to this ministry, consistent with proper submission to governmental authority (Romans 13:1-7) and obedient to the command to pray for our appointed leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Our desire is to witness God’s work in transforming hearts.

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Second, the word is useful for teaching us, correcting us, and making us more righteous. We recognize that essentially means to be more like Jesus Christ, who is our standard for righteousness.

Third, the intent of the training is to prepare us for “every good work”. This is the opposite of other worldly religious texts, which make behavior and activities the path to pleasing God. Rather, the Bible instructs us we must first throw ourselves on God’s mercy, provided by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, which is the only way to please God. Then after we are born again (regenerated in spirit) do our good works have any merit.

3. Hidden Power of Scripture

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of arrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

How can the text of a book be described as “living and active”?

First of all, the idea that God speaks with power is evident from page 1 of the Bible, when He spoke our universe into being (read Genesis 1). Words convey more than a message when God uses them. They have inherent power to create and transform, which is exactly what God promises to do when a person repents and turns to Him. This power is what Paul meant when he referred to the good news (gospel) as “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”. (Romans 1:16)

Also, when Jesus comes to earth we see this description in the first chapter of John’s gospel:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-3, 14 (ESV)

Clearly Jesus is identified fully with God’s word and after his resurrection we know he is living and active from his ruling vantage point at the right hand of the Almighty (Hebrews 8:1).

We don’t worship a book, consisting of paper and ink, but we worship the Word who is God—the Lord Jesus.

If you are working in the Alabama State House, or the Judicial or Executive branches, you are welcome to join me in weekly Bible Study—watch for announcements on where and when. I look forward to meeting you and time well spent in the study of the Living Word!

“I like to open the Bible and pray, ‘Lord God, let the words leap off the page into my soul; make them vivid, powerful and fresh to my heart.’” – 19th Century preacher, Charles H. Spurgeon

Questions to Ponder:

1. Do you believe the word of God is truly authoritative?
2. If so, does it directly impact your life?
3. Do you hear the word “truth” and have a fixed concept of what that means, or is it a nebulous term?

If these questions awaken a desire to discuss Biblical truth in more depth, please contact me, I am here to join you in that discussion!

A key facet empowering our ministry is prayer, but not just prayer for the preacher. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 commands Christians to obediently pray for our leaders. A tool for America’s churches to help consistently pray for you, our elected leaders, is available to all via:

www.Pray1Tim2.org

You can sign up for daily email reminders, courtesy of Capitol Commission