

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

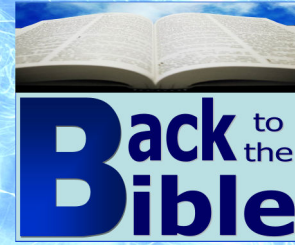
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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	19
Sunday AM Worship	35
Sunday PM Worship	18
Wed. Bible Study	16
Offering	\$2178

**WHO THEN  
CAN BE  
SAVED?**  
 MARK 10:26

THERE IS AN ANSWER!



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**Times of Services:**

Sunday  
 Bible Study:... 10:00am  
 AM Worship...11:00am  
 PM Worship:...6:00pm  
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday  
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program  
 Sunday:.....7:30am  
 "Back to the Bible"  
 AM 580 WSKS  
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
 Warm & Cordial  
 Welcome  
 To All Our  
 Visitors!**

**The Word of God Is...**

Tim Canup

"According to Guinness World Records as of 1995, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time..." as stated on a particular website. I do not know if that still true or not, but for the Christian, it one of our most valuable possessions, other than soul! We often sing about it: B-I-B-L-E; Give me the Bible; Precious Book Divine; Break Thou the Bread of Life; Wonderful Words of Life.

In the Word of God, the Bible is compared to various things, symbols. Notice a few of these:

**A LAMP**

The Psalmist said in Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path." Jesus is light of the World (John 8:12, 9:5). John recorded in John 1:4-5, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." Matthew recorded, "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region & shadow of death Light has dawned" (Matthew 4:16).

The Bible also declares that we are lights (Matthew 5:14-16). Acts 13:47b "...I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salv. to the ends of the earth." Concerning Paul mission, He was "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light..." (Acts 26:18). Consider the words to the old hymn, "How precious is

*Continued Inside*

the Book divine, By inspiration giv'n! Bright as a lamp its precepts shine, to guide my soul to heav'n. Holy Bible, Book divine! Precious treasure, Thou are mine! Lamp to my feet and a light to my way, to guide me safely home!

### A FIRE & A HAMMER

This analogy is found in Jeremiah 23:29. The context is a contrast between the false prophet and the true one. Jeremiah wrote, "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!'"<sup>26</sup> How long will *this* be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed *they are* prophets of the deceit of their own heart,<sup>27</sup> who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal.<sup>28</sup> "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; & he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat?" says the Lord.<sup>29</sup> "Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, "And like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces?"<sup>30</sup> "Therefore behold I *am* against the prophets," says the Lord, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor."<sup>31</sup> Behold, I *am* against the prophets," says the Lord, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.'"<sup>32</sup> Behold, I *am* against those who prophesy false dreams," says the Lord, "& tell them, & cause My people to err by their lies & by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the Lord" (verses 25-32).

Consider the analogy that is being given. First is fire: Jeremiah does not define the activity of the fire as he does that of the hammer. Fire can warm, comfort and protect, but it can also consume and destroy! The context points toward the latter. Second is the hammer: a hammer can build and construct. Here Jeremiah clarifies what he has in mind: it is used for destruction; it "breaks the rock in pieces." The application of the analogy is that when it comes to false prophets, God's Word will consume and destroy (crush or defeat) them.

### MILK & MEAT

This analogy is found in Hebrews 5:12-14. The context goes back to verses 10-11 where Jesus was "called by God as High Priest 'according to the order of Melchizedek,'"<sup>11</sup> of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing." Then the writer rebukes them for their lack of spiritual growth and maturity: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."<sup>13</sup> For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.<sup>14</sup> But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (verses 12-14).

The picture being given is that the Word of God is our spiritual nourishment. If one ignores the chapter division, in chapter 6, the writer then goes on to encourage them to mature spiritually. In verses 4-5 we read, "For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, & have tasted the heavenly gift, & have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>5</sup> & have tasted the good word of God & the powers of the age to come." In John 6:35, in contrast to the manna the children of Israel was given by God, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." In John 21, three times Jesus told Peter, "feed my lambs/sheep." The elder of the church are told "...to feed the church of God..." (Acts 20:28), and Peter wrote, "Feed the flock of God which is among you." Notice the contrast: milk is for beginners, babes (I Pet 2:2). It is what we begin with, but then we are expected to grow and mature and move on to meat, which is the real substance!

### A SWORD

The well-known analogy is found in Ephesians 6:17 in the list of the Christian soldier's armor, which includes "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." The Hebrews' writer said "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 a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12).

On one occasion, one man compared the analogy of the sword to a surgeon's scalpel. It may be true that it is that sharp, but that is not the analogy given in the word of God. The Greek word used for sword is the word for a broad sword, an instrument of war. It is our weapon that we are to us to do battle with Satan, sin, error and temptation. Just as with any physical weapon, we must be properly trained to use it or else we may do harm to ourselves or to another.

*"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward" (Psalm 19:7-11).*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service (Song Service)
- Aug 29 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Sept 5 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell