

Fight The Good Fight-Part 1

A Special Message

“God’s Word—the Treasure of Truth.”

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
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I think that most of you realize that God’s Word is under attack like never before in our nation’s A message by history—as well as in all those countries that have a Judeo-Christian heritage.

The devil has always attacked God’s Word from the very beginning.

As far back as the Garden of Eden when he first tried to get Eve to doubt what God said—*“Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”* (Genesis 3:1)

The Hebrew in this verse could be translated—*“So God has said, has He...”*—as Satan subtly sows doubt in Eve’s mind as to what God said.

One author put it well—

“Here we have the first question in the Bible posing the first dilemma in human history—there were no dilemmas before this one. The question is carefully crafted by Satan to start Eve down the path of doubting God’s Word. He knows that doubting the Word of God will inevitably lead to rejecting the will of God and then doing whatever seems right in her own eyes. And so, for the first time in human history the most deadly spiritual force was covertly smuggled into the world—what was it? The assumption that what God has said is subject to human judgment.”

But today the attacks have become far more blatant and ***‘in your face’*** as Satan seems to have thrown off all subtlety and has now adopted a ***‘direct frontal assault’*** approach in his attacks on the Word of God.

What am I referring to in particular? Maybe you’ve heard about a new law that went into effect yesterday (January 8th) in Canada.

This new Canadian law essentially states that any teaching (the target of this law is no doubt against the teaching of God’s Word as presented in the Bible) that says that people are born genetic males and genetic females and that that is a settled fact—is a myth.

This Canadian law further states that—*“heterosexuality, cisgender gender identity and gender expression that conforms to the sex assigned to a person at birth and are therefore to be preferred over other sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions—is now illegal.”*

Furthermore, the belief that God has mandated in marriage that only one genetic male and one genetic female can be legally married or else they are living in sin—will now be seen as a *“myth”* and illegal as well. The new Canadian law is a direct assault on the validity of the Bible and blatantly contradicts that which has been the bedrock of the Judeo-Christian faith (not to mention the foundation of Western civilization) for centuries.

REFLECTION: Have you ever experienced an in-your-face blatant attack on the Bible, Church and/or Christian beliefs?

Pastor John MacArthur explained in an open letter to Christian pastors across America that—
"The Canadian law is an attack on speech and faith under the guise of banning 'so-called conversation therapy.' That agenda already has gotten a start in the United States with several states that have banned it. Essentially, the law would restrict any speech or belief that would counsel individuals, especially youth, against adopting a homosexual or transgender lifestyle."

In an article entitled: **"John MacArthur to pastors: Fight government claim that biblical moral standards are a 'myth'"**, the article goes on to state—

"A prominent American Christian leader, John MacArthur of Grace Community Church in California, has issued a call to American church pastors to join in a fight being waged by their Canadian brothers...MacArthur wants American Christian church leaders to join with Canadian pastors on Jan. 16 to preach on God's plan for human sexuality...MacArthur includes a call to repent of sin and turn to Jesus Christ as the first step of Christian discipleship."

So, I will be joining in with pastors all across America next week in standing up for the Word of God by proclaiming God's design for human sexuality.

But for this morning, I'd thought I would present an introductory message on the Word of God entitled— **"God's Word—the Treasure of Truth."**

Let me begin by saying—you will never benefit from the Word of God if you don't appreciate and value it.

Why should we value the Bible? Because:

I. **It is a Timeless Book**

Psalm 119:89 (NKJV)

⁸⁹ Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:152 (NKJV)

¹⁵² Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.

Psalm 119:160 (NKJV)

¹⁶⁰ The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Other books come and go—but the Word of God lasts forever: “As the Scriptures say, “People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains [endures] forever.” (1 Peter 1:24-25)

In other words, **the Word of God is timeless!**

Voltaire the famous French Enlightenment writer, historian, philosopher, and atheist who died in 1778 made an infamous prediction—he predicted that within 100 years of his death the Bible would disappear from the Earth.

Ironically, 50 years after his death the Geneva Bible Society bought his house and used his own printing press to produce thousands of Bibles for distribution!

This brings to mind the famous statement by H.L. Hastings on the subject:

“Infidels for eighteen hundred years have been refuting and overthrowing this Book and yet it stands today as solid as a rock. It’s circulation increases and it is more loved and cherished and read today than ever before. Infidels with all their assaults make about as much impression on this book as a man with a tack hammer would on the Pyramids of Egypt. When the French monarch proposed the persecution of the Christians in his domain, an old statesman and warrior said to him, ‘Sire, the Church of God is an anvil that has worn out many hammers.’ So the hammers of infidels have been pecking away at this Book for ages, but the hammers are worn out and the anvil still endures. If this Book had not been the Book of God, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hand at it; they die and the Book still lives.”

REFLECTION: How is the Bible “timeless” to you?

We should also value the Bible because:

II. It is a Truthful Book

Psalm 119:142 (NKJV)

¹⁴²Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

Psalm 119:151 (NKJV)

¹⁵¹You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth.

Psalm 119:160 (NKJV)

¹⁶⁰The entirety of Your word is truth...

John 17:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

As I said earlier, today the Word of God has come under attack like never before—which includes attacks from inside the church as well! (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

Many are attacking it through a direct frontal assault by simply denying it is in fact—the Word of God!

They say it's a collection of man-made myths, allegories, and moral principles all brought together under a single cover which we can learn some principles from—but it is not to be taken as inerrant, divine truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

“Inspiration” is a translation of the Greek word *theopneustos*—which literally means “God-breathed.”

The idea is that all Scripture has been **‘breathed-out’ by God.**

That’s an interesting way to put it because it reminds us of Genesis 2:7—“*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being*”.

The idea is that God breathed life into the Scriptures the same way He breathed life into Adam—even as the book of Hebrews declares, “*The Word of God is living and powerful...*” (Hebrews 4:12)

REFLECTION: How would you explain the “Truthfulness” of the Bible?

The doctrine of the authority of the Bible is often described with the phrase, “*verbal, plenary inspiration.*”—what does this phrase mean?

Verbal inspiration means that every word of Scripture is God-given. The idea is that every single word in the Bible is there because God wanted it there—there are no exceptions.

Plenary means that “all parts” of the Bible are equally authoritative.

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴But He [Jesus] answered and said, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*' "

We should also value the Bible because:

III. It is a Transforming Book

One of the most dramatic examples of the Bible’s divine ability to transform lives involved the famous story of *Mutiny on the Bounty*.

One author said concerning this:

“Most of us have heard the story of the Mutiny on the Bounty, but few of us have heard how the Bible played a very vital part in that historical event.

The Bounty was a British ship which set sail from England in 1787, bound for the South Seas. The idea was that those on board would spend some time among the islands, transplanting fruit-bearing and food-bearing trees, and doing other things to make some of the islands more habitable.

After ten months of voyage, the Bounty arrived safely at the island of Tahiti, and for six months the officers and the crew gave themselves to the duties placed upon them by their government.

When the special task was completed, however, and the order came to embark again, the sailors rebelled. They had formed strong attachments for the native girls, and the climate and the ease of the South Sea Island life was much to their liking. The result was mutiny on the Bounty, and the sailors placed Captain Bligh and a few loyal men adrift in an open boat. Captain Bligh, in an almost miraculous fashion, survived the ordeal, was rescued, and eventually arrived home in London to tell his story. An expedition was launched to punish the mutineers, and in due time fourteen of them were captured and paid the penalty under British law.

But nine of the men had gone to another distant island called Pitcairn Island. There they formed a colony. Perhaps there has never been a more degraded and debauched social life than that of that colony. They learned to distill whiskey from a native plant, and the whiskey, as usual, along with other habits, led to their ruin.

Disease and murder took the lives of all the native men and all but one of the white men named Alexander Smith. He found himself the only man on an island, surrounded by a crowd of women and half-breed children. Alexander Smith found a Bible among the possessions of a dead sailor.

The Book was new to him. He had never read it before. He sat down and read it through. He believed it and he began to appropriate it. He wanted others to share in the benefits of this book, so he taught classes to the women and the children, as he read to them and taught them the Scriptures.

In 1808, 20 years after the mutiny on the Bounty. a ship from Boston discovered the community on Pitcairn Island. When the captain of the ship returned to America, he took news of the only mutineer to survive and of what he called, “The most perfect Christian society that he had ever seen.”

A miniature Utopia was discovered. The people were living in decency, prosperity, harmony, and peace. There was nothing of crime, disease, immorality, insanity, or illiteracy. How was it accomplished? By the reading, the believing, and the appropriating of the truth of the Word of God!”

REFLECTION: How has the Bible transformed you?

The Bible has the power to transform lives—if it is read and applied.

The Word of God should also be valued because:

IV. It is a Treasured Book

Psalm 119:162 (NKJV)

¹⁶² I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.

Psalm 119:127 (NKJV)

¹²⁷ Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold!

Romans 11:33 (NKJV)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!

***The Word of God is valuable—
but it will only benefit you if you treasure it—
and it will only make your life rich if you obey it.***

Vance Havner—

“I have read that years ago in that part of Africa where diamonds in the rough were plentiful, a traveler chanced on boys playing. Closer investigation revealed that they were playing marbles with diamonds!—God forgive us today that we handle His treasures as though they were trifles and the coinage of the eternal as though it were play money. It is no time to play marbles with diamonds!”

REFLECTION: Explain how “you” treasure the Bible?

D.L. Moody wrote in the front of his Bible:

“This book will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from this book.”

The Word of God is a ‘treasure trove’ of great and precious promises and principles—we are:

- **Saved** by the Word—1 Timothy 4:16; James 1:21
- **Cleansed** by the Word—Ephesians 5:26; Psalm 119:9
- **Sanctified** by the Word—John 17:17; 1 Timothy 4:6
- **Guided** by the Word—Psalm 119:105
- **Enlightened** by the Word—Psalm 19:8
- **Kept** by the Word—Psalm 17:4; Revelation 3:10

**God’s Word is truth and *the only thing that can save and sanctify a person*
which is why the devil tries so hard to undermine and destroy it—
and has from the very beginning.**

Let me end with a true story that comes from the life of Robert Dick Wilson—a man who truly treasured God’s Word.

Robert Wilson was born in 1856—he graduated from Princeton University at the age of twenty and went on to earn a Ph.D. He then did further post-graduate work in Germany for two years where he was exposed to the School of Higher Criticism.

One day after a class where the Bible, in particular the Old Testament, had been ridiculed as untrustworthy young Wilson, who was 25 years old at that time, knelt by his bed and prayed:

“Lord if You will give me another 45 years, I will devote the first 15 years to learning every language the Bible was written in. I will spend the next 15 years studying the O.T. itself and the last 15 years I will spend presenting my findings for the truthfulness of Your Word”.

God answered Robert’s prayer and gave him another forty-nine years—during which he mastered forty-five languages!

He not only became an expert in Hebrew, and its kindred tongues—but he learned all the languages into which the Scriptures had been translated down to the year A.D. 600.

While he was still in college, he could read the New Testament in nine languages. He had memorized the entire New Testament in Hebrew, along with portions of the Old Testament, and it is said that he could recite the New Testament in Hebrew from memory without missing so much as a syllable!

He studied the text of the Old Testament looking at every consonant (the Hebrew Old Testament has no vowels)—about 250 thousand of them.

He made a thorough scientific investigation of the Old Testament text, as compared to other writings of antiquity. Dr. Wilson then spent his remaining years writing down and teaching the results of his long research.

He became the leading professor at Princeton Theological Seminary where he spent many years defending the Bible against all comers, as well as turning out students that had a strong foundation for their faith—who trusted and treasured the Word of God!

The story is told that at the end of one of his classes a student raised his hand and asked the old scholar, “Dr. Wilson, what is the greatest truth you have ever learned in all your studies of the Bible?”

With tears streaming down his face he said, ***“The greatest truth I have ever learned is this—that Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so!”***

That is the greatest truth in the treasure house of God’s Word—that God loves you!

No one has to be a brilliant theologian to understand that!

Read the Bible as God’s ‘love letter’ to you—and let the love of God for you be the core principle in your relationship with Him. Then as you fall in love with God more and more—take His love out to those you come in contact with in the world around you!

If you do that, this is going to be a remarkable year in how you touch people for Jesus!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Want to know more? Click [here](#).