

## **29 May 2005**

### **Biblical Base**

Over the past 6 weeks we have been looking at our Core Values for Stanley River Valley Community Church.

Evangelism/Mission – We spoke on how to bring the Gospel to the unreached.

Community – Awareness of the needs of the people in the community.

Integrity and Discipleship; Purposefulness and Creativity.

This week, we look at our final core value – Biblical Base.

This Bible is God's word. The Bible is made up of 66 books – 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. It was written by 40 authors. The Bible tells us how the world was made, the history of the past, it is full of war stories; romance, miracles and a whole of other stories – we may be here all day if I keep going.

The Bible is divided into 2 parts – the Old Testament which is the history before the coming of Christ and the New Testament which tells us of the birth of Christ and His ministry while He was on earth and His death and resurrection. It also tells us, through Revelation, what will happen in the future.

Some Bible verses we have used in this Core Value are:-

Deuteronomy 4:6 – Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations who will hear about all these decrees and say surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

I have just read the verse, but the whole chapter is talking about the Holy Scriptures, in verse 2, it says – Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God, that I give you.

God's statutes and judgements were consciously revealed Scripture given by God and not to be changed.

There are many different versions of the Bible – King James, New International Version (NIV); New American Standard, Good News and others. Some of the words are different, but when it comes down to it, the Bible is God's inspired word. All the versions originate from the same records, but they are translated into different languages and versions.

Another verse – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The instruction of Christian leaders, the authority of the Scriptures and the authority of Jesus Christ combine to make a person wise and prepared for salvation by belief in Jesus.

The scripture is God breathed and thus authoritative in all areas of ministry – instructing in proper doctrine, it rebukes us in our sinful ways, it corrects us from false doctrine. We should not believe everything that people tell us, we should always check what we are being taught. Just remember, we are all human and make mistakes – myself, Stephen and any leader or Pastor may get it wrong from time to time. Never take what we say as being right, check it out and if you feel it is still wrong, go to the person and talk to them about it so that it may be clarified and the error can be corrected.

The Bible is the textbook of the Christian faith. The Scriptures are the source of religious instruction of both children and adults – pointing the way to salvation, clarifying understandings of the Gospel and providing guidance for living in our daily life.

Some people say don't worry about the Old Testament because it is just history and we should just concentrate only on the New Testament, but I say and the Bible says – all the Bible is useful – every part of it.

Yesterday, I came across some one liners about God –

1. Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible
2. We don't change God's message – His message changes us
3. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called
4. Read the Bible – it will scare the Hell out of you

These may be just a few things that sound a bit funny, but when you stop and think about it, there is a message there for us.

The Bible is big and you may think it daunting trying to read such a big book. Well, look at it like this – it is made up of a lot of smaller books, so why not start today – pick one book and start. Not only read it, but read it slow and steady so that you can find out what God is saying to you.

Everything we do as a Christian should be biblical based. Here is something that I read the other day. Did you know there's a book in almost everyone's home, that some Christians read more than the Bible?

"On the table side by side;  
A Holy Bible and a TV guide,  
One is worn but cherished with pride  
(Not the Bible, but the TV Guide).

One is used daily to help folks decide  
No, it isn't the Bible, it's the TV Guide.  
As pages are turned, what shall they see?  
Oh, what does it matter, turn on the TV.  
So they open the book in what they confide  
No, not the Bible, it's the TV Guide.

I know that I fall short of reading God's word daily, and after reading the bible and other notes about God's word, it has challenged me to make a bigger effort to study God's word on a daily basis. My prayer is that we can all do the same, it can take 5 minutes a day, surely we can find time for God because He is there for us 24/7.

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