

This Book

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace Church located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from messages preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 2000

Grace Publications is a ministry of
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

COVER PHOTO BY ALEXANDER KARIS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 5

Chapter 1 8

THE WORD THAT DOES NOT FAIL

Chapter 2 16

AND GOD SAID....

Chapter 3 23

JESUS: THE WORD MADE FLESH

Chapter 4 31

THE WORD PROVES ITSELF TRUE

Chapter 5 35

THE LORD'S ULTIMATE WEAPON

CONCLUSION 40

INTRODUCTION

*This Book I would rather own
than all the golden gems
From off the monarch's coffers shown
and all his diadems.
Yea, if the sea were of crystal light
and the earth a golden ball,
And diamonds for stars each night,
This Book is worth them all.*

*Think of it carefully, study it prayerfully,
Deep in thine heart let its oracles dwell.
Ponder its mysteries, slight not its histories;
None can e'er love it too fondly or well.*

by Dr. Logston

The Word of God! Based on its premise, this is one of the most serious messages I have ever prepared. We are living in a time when it is crucial that we study to show ourselves approved

unto God, able to use the Scriptures skillfully: to know God's mind and apply it in every situation (2 Timothy 2:15). Of course, that includes having His heart and being filled with His Spirit.

Intellectual stimulation by just acquiring knowledge can make a person passive or puffed up, but it doesn't make anyone spiritual. When a believer receives knowledge, he may be stimulated; but when he is filled with the Holy Spirit, the inspired truth becomes personal. He realizes that he doesn't know a single thing as he ought, but he is available to learn (1 Corinthians 8:1-2).

Several qualities characterize the Spirit-filled workman, including meekness (which is God-consciousness), and humility (which makes us able to concentrate with academic discipline). "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way" (Psalm 25:9). Concentrating on the Word of God is the highest form of worship. Therefore, because God is a Spirit, we are to worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Our attitude is to be one not of striving, but of thankfulness and praise (Psalm 100:4), along with an awesome reverence for who He is (Hebrews 4:1).

This is how revival will be ushered in throughout the Body of Christ to prepare us for

what will happen in the coming years. It is so important that what is written in this booklet is taken to heart. These are not the words of a man; these verses are words that were already spoken by God.

Chapter One

**THE WORD THAT
DOES NOT FAIL**

“Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant” (1 Kings 8:56).

“The law and the prophets were until John [the Baptist]: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

“And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one *tittle* of the law to fail” (Luke 16:17).

“Tittle” is *keraia* in the Greek, referring to one stroke of a pen. In English grammar, it refers to the line that is made to form the letter “t.” What God is saying is that it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one pen stroke of the Scriptures to fail. Think of that! Not one syllable, not one letter of the Word of God shall fail.

That verse in Luke was written fifteen hun-

dred years after Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. How many promises do you know? How many promises do you claim? Let me ask you this: In all those years, can you name one promise that failed?

It Shall Not Depart

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:8).

“This book” shall not depart. It didn’t say that songs, as precious as some of them are, shall not depart. It says, “this book.” This book! That means we are to keep reading it, keep studying it, keep going to church and receiving it. Heaven and earth will be gone, but this Book will remain in us, ever growing. I am in church three times a week because I go to hear from this Book. This Book shall not depart.

Do Not Add to It

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add

unto him the plagues that are written in this book.

“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18-19).

Does anyone have a right to add to this book? No. This warning is not only in the book of Revelation but throughout the Bible. You can look up Deuteronomy 4:2, 11:18-22, 12:32; Proverbs 30:5; Matthew 4:4; and 2 Timothy 3:16. If this Book is added unto, do you think God will just stand by? He will not. If you think immorality and promiscuity is all right and that God won't do a thing about it, you are wrong. What will God do? You can read it in the Scriptures. God will add unto them “the plagues that are written in this book.”

Don't be naive: There are plagues in the world today. Tornadoes are plagues. Hurricanes are plagues. Diseases are plagues. Now I don't mean that everyone who has a disease is plagued. Some of the best Christians in the world are suffering simply because of what we have sown as a nation.

“If any man shall take away from the words

of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life.” *God* will take away his part in the book of life. Who said that? Did a man say it? No, it is God who said this.

Sure Words of Prophecy

The Bible has always been in existence. It was given to men at certain times over the course of history, but before man ever received it, the Bible always was (Psalm 119:89).

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation” (2 Peter 1:19-20).

We cannot privately interpret what the Bible teaches. This is not a personal opinion. In our Bible college classes, we delve into the original languages and the historical frame of reference (isagogics) for every passage we teach. And throughout this message, you will be given specific chapters and verses, line upon line and precept upon precept (Isaiah 28:10).

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by

every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Every church should be a church of the Book. People ought to bring their Bibles, open their Bibles, take notes, and check out what is said when the pastor teaches the Scriptures. As a pastor, all I want is for us to be prepared with the Word of God to meet God. We might as well get ready. Very soon, the only thing that will matter is the Word of God.

This is no time to be discouraged, depressed, or ‘partially’ obedient. It is time to be men and women of the Book. Let’s make decisions for the Book, to live in the purpose of the Book, to go all the way with the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. God will add the other things to us. He promised that He would, and He will do it (Matthew 6:33).

God Exalts His Word above His Name

“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name” (Psalm 138:2).

This is a most interesting verse. “Thy name” speaks of the nature of God, who God is. He is lovingkindness, mercy, longsuffering, patience, and truth, which refers to doctrine. What does

God put above who He is? His Word. His Word is above His reputation.

“Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me” (Psalm 119:133).

Iniquity is emotional rebellion against bona fide spiritual authority. The father’s authority in the home, if it is bona fide, is correct. The head of a business has authority in that business and over its employees.

“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4; see also Deuteronomy 8:3). Remember, we don’t know a single thing as we ought to know it. If we did, we would have been translated to heaven by now!

Consider how, as a good worker, you try to do your job honestly and uprightly. Good businessmen do their best to be honest and thorough. They do not lie on the job. Godly parents do their very best to be honest and upright, and they do not lie to their children. They purpose to be good examples.

Now, picture the responsibility that a pastor has. 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 3 explain his accountability before God. He will receive double discipline if he does not preach the whole truth

(James 3:1). While members of the church may be disciplined by God for disobedience, pastors get disciplined more. So don't get angry toward a man of God for preaching this Book. He is doing his job, and he is being faithful to his call.

Be Careful to Hear

It is quite an experience to minister from the Bible and to read all that the Lord Jesus says about this Book. Not one tittle shall ever pass away (Luke 16:17; Matthew 24:35). Not a word, not a syllable, not a letter—not a bit of it.

We cannot pick the days that we listen to it. We must receive doctrine every day. Luke 8:18 and Mark 4:24 tell us to be careful how we hear and to be very careful with what we hear, because we will have to give an answer to God for how we received it (see 1 Peter 3:15; John 12:47-48). If we don't hear it, we will be required to give an answer for why we didn't go and hear it.

Christians will be judged not for their circumstances, but for the opportunities they had to receive the Word of God while they were in those circumstances. Nations will be judged for ignoring opportunities to hear doctrine coming from pulpits that preach the whole counsel of

God. Many people live in communities where there are churches that preach God's Word with conviction; yet, they may go through terrible problems but never be released because they do not take advantage of God's provision (2 Chronicles 30:8; Matthew 23:37).

Chapter Two

“AND GOD SAID....”

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light” (Genesis 1:3) I like that. How did light come into being? God just spoke the Word.

“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters” (Genesis 1:6). God decided He wanted a firmament (the atmosphere), so He divided the waters and established a firmament. He spoke the firmament into being.

“And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so” (Genesis 1:9). God wanted the waters to be separated and the earth to be dry so He separated the waters into seas and oceans. The Bible says that God said it, and it happened.

“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also” (Genesis 1:16).

Friend, do you know how that happened? God said it.

“And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

“And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:20-21).

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26).

How did everything happen? God said it. God spoke it all into existence.

The Bible says that God took the dust of the earth, formed man, breathed into him the breath of life, and man became a living soul (see Genesis 2:7). The breath was the human spirit; then came the living soul, and the physical body made out of the dust.

These sixteen elements form the dust of the earth: hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen,

sodium, magnesium, fluorine, chlorine, silicon, phosphorous, sulfur, potassium, calcium, iron, manganese, and iodine. And do you know that all sixteen are found in our bodies? How did this happen? Genesis 2:7 tells us how it happened. I am not to change the Word of God, but I am to give proof of the truth of it.

We need to hear the Word of God and do what God says. He loves us, He died for us, and He paid for our sins. If you are a backslidden Christian, get right and go all the way with God. Sign up for Jesus for the rest of your life. Make the most of the handful of years you have left, and mean business with God.

Awake, for His Time is Now

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light” (Romans 13:11-12).

God could have said, “I want the Adirondack Mountains, so I will make them by speaking. I want the Amazon River and the ten thousand lakes of Minnesota. I want to lower

the land and make valleys. I want great forests with the redwood trees, the oak trees, the pine trees. I want all of those trees in the forest and I want all of the streams to flow down the mountains, through the valleys and the plains, and to the oceans.”

Then God might have said, “I have decided to paint the peacock with brilliant colors, and I have decided to take My divine brush and paint roses and daffodils and all the flowers in their various hues. I want the seasons to change (Genesis 8:22). I will create all different animals—and I want to make all of this for man. Then, I want this beautiful chandelier of stars to shine down upon him.”

God said it, and we have it all. Every single thing that happened, every thing that was created, was executed by the Word of God.

For ever, His Word is settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). Before the Bible was written in ink or on stone, Jesus was the Living Word (see John 1:1). Understand that the Word of God has always been, long before men wrote it down through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Every single word in it is precious and pure.

“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou

knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1).

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14).

A man boarded his private airplane along with his wife and their thirteen-year-old daughter. Their plan was to fly home after a brief vacation. Besides having twenty-five years of experience as a pilot, he also taught classes in flight safety. But, a mechanical problem caused the plane to crash, and their lives were over in an instant. Do you think that he ever dreamed that at fifty years old he and his family would face eternity?

Our days are numbered, but it is the Word of God that will remain forever. It shall not perish. The apostle John loved to see his “children” walk in the truth of doctrine, and so does every godly pastor (3 John 4).

The Word Remains

“And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision” (1 Samuel 3:1b).

The Roman Empire tried many times to remove the Bible from the face of the earth. Today,

that empire is gone, but the Bible lives on. In the first century A.D., Nero said that he would destroy Christianity and the Scriptures within two decades. Today, Nero is dead, but the Bible lives.

At one time, there were only twenty-eight copies of the Word of God in Rome. The Empire thought they had gotten rid of all of them. But twenty-eight copies were hidden away, and through the centuries, many have died trying to preserve and publish those pages we call the Holy Bible.

Thomas Paine said that his printing press would work full-time to undermine the truth of the Word of God. Paine died, and the press he used to try to destroy the Bible was used to publish Bibles.

Voltaire, a French philosopher, declared that the Bible would no longer exist because he would tell the “truth” about it worldwide. Now he doesn’t exist, but Christians are still preaching the Bible throughout the world.

Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and others like them tried to destroy the faith of godly men and women who were willing to die for the sake of this Book. Those wicked leaders never showed signs of repentance, and they are probably in hell right now.

Many colleges in New England were founded upon the Word of God, and today they crucify it. Some instructors in those institutions run down the name of Jesus Christ—the Creator by whom all things consist (Colossians 1:16-17), the One who holds all things together “by the word of his power” (Hebrews 1:2-3).

To ignore these facts is to lack character and integrity. There are good Christian colleges that will train people to be doctors or engineers, and they believe the Bible is the Book from heaven.

Chapter Three

JESUS: THE WORD MADE FLESH

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

“The same was in the beginning with God” (John 1:1-2).

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

“For I am the LORD: I will speak and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass” (Ezekiel 12:25a).

“And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe” (John 14:29).

All of Scripture is inspired. It has the seal of divine authenticity, supernatural infallibility, and virtuous and noble integrity. Therefore,

every single word can be trusted.

This Book makes it clear that we have a “more sure word of prophecy” (2 Peter 1:19). A recent magazine article declared that there are three hundred prophecies of Christ’s coming in the Old Testament, which were all fulfilled. The chances of just fifty of those prophecies being fulfilled are less than 1 in 1 trillion. But in fact, three hundred prophecies were fulfilled, as declared in this wonderful Book, the supernaturally written Bible.

In this precious Book, we find that our Savior would be the seed of a woman, not the seed of a man (Genesis 3:15). Jesus is never called the son of Joseph, He is called the Son of Mary (Luke 2). The fulfillment is declared in Galatians 4:4.

It was written that He would be of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 18:18), and that fulfillment was declared in Acts 3:25. It was written that He would be of the seed of Isaac (Genesis 17:19). That is fulfilled in Matthew 1:2. The Word of God said He would be of the seed of Jacob (Numbers 24:17). This was beautifully declared in Luke 3:34.

Genesis 49:10 said He would be born from the tribe of Judah and it was fulfilled according to Luke 3:33. What a Book this is!

Isaiah 9:7 said He would be of the throne of David—fulfilled, according to Matthew 1:1. The place of His birth, the little town called Bethlehem Ephratah, was forecast in Micah 5:2 and beautifully fulfilled in Matthew 2:1.

Daniel 9:24-25 predicted the time of His birth, and it was fulfilled in Luke 2:1-2. Isaiah 7:14 said He would be born of a virgin. That was fulfilled in Matthew 1:18. This Book predicted Herod's massacre of the first-born in Bethlehem (Jeremiah 31:15). It is fulfilled in Matthew 2:16-18. Isaiah 9:1-2 declared that He would have a tremendous ministry in Galilee, and He did (Matthew 4:12-16).

The Word of God said that Jesus would be a "priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek" (Psalm 110:4). This is fulfilled in Hebrews 6:20. The Word said that He would be betrayed by Judas Iscariot, "Mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me" (Psalm 41:9). In Mark 14:10, Judas went to the high priest and betrayed his friend, the Lord Jesus. Zechariah 11:12 said that the price on Jesus' head would be thirty pieces of silver; in Matthew 26:15, thirty pieces of silver were paid to Judas.

That same silver, according to Zechariah

11:13, would be used to buy a potter's field. In Matthew 27:6-7, they took the money to buy the potter's field.

Unmatched Accuracy

Oh, the Word of God is so accurate. It is the heavenly revelation of why we are here, where we are going, how to be saved, how we can live, how we can grow, how we can edify, and how we can go into all the world to preach the gospel.

In Isaiah 53:3, the Word of God said that Christ would be a man despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, a man acquainted with grief, a Man who would come into the world He created and the world would not know Him (John 1:10). It said He would come to His own, and His own would reject Him. His own disciples forsook Him (Matthew 26:56), and Peter cursed and denied Him.

This Book said that He would give His back to the smiters and His cheeks to those who would pluck off the hairs of His beard, and they would spit upon Him (Isaiah 50:6). That was fulfilled in Mark 14:65. Isaiah 53:7 foretold that Jesus would "open not his mouth" when brought before His accusers, "as a lamb to the

slaughter.” In Matthew 26:62-63, He answered them not a word.

This very specific Book said He would be buried in a rich man’s grave (Isaiah 53:9), and He was (Matthew 27:57-60). Psalm 16:10 said He would be resurrected, and oh, He was (Matthew 28:9). Psalm 68:18 said He would ascend, and He did, in Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:11. This same Bible says He is coming back in the Rapture to gather up those who are saved and to take them up into the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

Not a single sign was left unfulfilled. The Rapture could happen at any moment. It is imminent.

And one day, Jesus will come back to the earth (2 Thessalonians 2:1; Revelation 19:14-17; Acts 1:9).

It is this Book that we must live by. Not a single promise in it has ever fallen to the ground. It is this Book that will give us faith, hope, and an abundant life. This Book means so much when it is lived through the Holy Spirit.

The prophecies about our Lord and verses that reveal their fulfillment could go on and on. Every detail was accurately prophesied—not a single syllable out of place. The Bible also says that to be saved and go to heaven, every individual must be born again by the Spirit of God (John 3:5-8). The same Bible says that our sins are forgiven when we receive Christ as our Savior (Ephesians 1:7). This Bible says that God does not impute sin or iniquity to our account (Romans 4:6-8). This same Bible says, “For by grace are you saved through faith and not of yourself, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8)

“It Is Written”

In Matthew 4, Jesus dealt with the devil. Satan said, “If You are God, make these stones become bread.” And Jesus said, “It is written. Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

The devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of the

temple and said, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Matthew 4:5). Satan wanted Jesus to enter into presumption, so he misquoted Psalm 91:11.

God will not presume anything. Every word must be rightly divided in specific categories of doctrine. And in Matthew 4:7, "Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." He would not be tempted with presumption.

Then Satan said, "If you will fall down and worship me, I will give you all the kingdoms of the world." Satan wanted to be worshiped. That is what he has always wanted. When we go our own way, apart from God, and live in immorality, the Word tells us we are worshipping the devil. Living in fornication is idolatry. I can prove it by the Book. Idolatry is to love anything more than God. When faced with that temptation, Jesus said: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10).

What did Jesus do three times during His confrontation with Satan in the wilderness? He

responded with “It is written.... It is written.... It is written....” What should we say when we are tempted? “It is written.” If God in His humanity said, “It is written,” we too had better say, “It is written”! Jesus didn’t have an old sin nature as we do, and if *He* needed to say it, we surely need to declare “It is written....”

We must purpose in our hearts to observe and obey all that God said so this Book will not depart out of our mouths. We need to meditate and reflect upon it day and night so that we may “be strong and very courageous, that [we] mayest observe to do according to all the law”—according to all that is written in this Book (see Joshua 1:7-8).

When Satan sends a projection to us and we receive it and mentally reflect it, then we fulfill it, and we sin. When God gives us the Word and we meditate upon it, we mentally reflect it, and then we reveal Christ. We have been given a choice, according to Deuteronomy 30:14-20. Choose life!

Chapter Four

THE WORD PROVES ITSELF TRUE

We have the Book that has always proven itself to be true.

Zechariah 14:12 spoke of eyes being consumed away in their sockets and the tongue being consumed in their mouths. When the nuclear bomb was dropped at Hiroshima, reports describe that this is exactly what happened. The Book had said it would happen.

Henry Ford invented the first car, but the Book already said it would happen (Nahum 2:4). The first airplane that went up was predicted by the Bible (Isaiah 60:8; 40:31). The first submarine that went down was predicted in the Bible (Amos 9:3).

Concerning the weather, ice, condensation, evaporation, the seven stars that control the stability of our solar system, and the stars without number, the Bible spoke of it hundreds and hundreds of years ago (Job 38).

This same Bible says that women would have pain during childbirth because of Eve's sin (Genesis 3:16), and men would have to work by the sweat of their brow because of the Fall (Genesis 3:17).

No library, no other book, can give the reason that these things happen. Not one. I examined the research of an entire table of scholars before I was saved. There isn't another book that explains these things. No other book explains why we die, but the Bible says, "The wages of sin is death."

No other book can explain why the earth has such intense heat at its core. The Bible says, "Hell from beneath..." (Isaiah 14:9). We know it is red-hot because there is a fire burning down there—hellfire.

Thank God, the scientists can't explain how the world hangs upon nothing (Job 26:7). This huge earth goes round and round as fast as it does, and it spins on nothing. How can it do this? It can, because Jesus holds it up with His Word (Hebrews 1:3).

Jesus Christ is the expressed brightness of His Father's glory. He is the express image of the Father. He upholds all things by the word of His power. When He purged our sins by shedding

His blood for us on the Cross, He sat down at the right hand of God on high, in a Finished Work, as the glorified Man.

You can't get this information at any ungodly college. That is why the psalmist could say, "I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation" (Psalm 119:99); he knew these things from the Word.

The Word Was Sent to Heal

By His Word, the blind were made to see—two of them in Matthew 9:29. In Matthew 17:18, demons went out of a child through the Word. Through the Word of God, the centurion's servant was healed (Matthew 8:13).

It is through the Word of God that we were made. We know that the world was framed by the Word of God, and we see the things that we see because of the things that aren't seen (see Hebrews 11:3).

Did you know that the Bible says in Psalm 33:6 that the heavens were made by the Word of God? He made the host of the sky by the breath of His mouth. The breath is His Spirit and the mouth is His Word. That happened! "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and

all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.”

Get excited about this Book!

The power of this Book postponed a funeral. Jesus used the Word of God and postponed a funeral (see Luke 7:13-15). In another case, after there had been a funeral, Jesus raised His friend Lazarus from the dead by saying, “Lazarus, come forth” (John 11:43).

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).

The Gospel of Salvation

How did we get saved? By works? No. We were saved by hearing the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). By hearing the Word and receiving the Savior, we were saved by the grace of God through faith, not of works (Ephesians 2:5-8).

The moment you honestly believe and let Jesus come in and change your life, you are saved forever. It doesn't matter what He needs to take away—and what He takes away is really nothing compared to all that you will have in Him. Salvation because of His Word: the most powerful truth in the universe.

Chapter Five

THE LORD'S ULTIMATE WEAPON

“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which as sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

“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 a discernor [critic] of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him” (Proverbs 30:5).

A nuclear bomb is *not* going to end the world. My Bible tells me that Jesus' Word will do the job.

The Lord will return on a white horse, and we will be with Him on white horses. Neither Roy Rogers nor the Lone Ranger will be able to touch what we are going to have. We will have

the most beautiful, glorified white horses. If you have never ridden a horse, don't worry! You will be fine. We will all fly in the air, and we will have the time of our lives. This will all happen at Christ's Second Advent, seven years after the Rapture (Revelation 19:12-14).

In Revelation 19:15, the weapons that Jesus will use in the battle of Armageddon will be what comes out of His mouth. The Word will be a sword proceeding out from His mouth, and it will smite the nations that have gathered at the Valley of Jehoshaphat, where the last World War will take place. Jesus is not going to use a bomb. He won't degrade Himself to use what man has made.

Jesus Christ will say: "It's over." No man-made weapons will be involved. He will destroy the enemies of Israel and the enemies of His Church. He will do it by the Word of God.

Spirit-Filled Obedience

Psalm 119:133 says we are to order our steps by the Word. We cannot do that unless we know it properly. Do you think that if God made the universe and holds it together with the Word, He could also straighten out your marriage?

Jesus Christ is the God of love, and compas-

sion, and mercy. His Word established the institution of marriage. When the Holy Spirit fills you and the Word of God dwells richly in your heart (Colossians 3:16), and when you do all things in the name of Jesus to glorify God, then your marriage can be instantly changed by God's Word, God's Spirit, and God's grace. But for that to happen, you have to have the integrity to go after the Word of God and obey the Book.

“As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me” (Psalm 18:44).

God has said that He wants a Church that will do His work in Jerusalem. Our church is doing that with 138 different outreaches locally. God said we are to go into all the world. We are doing it. Why? Because we are obeying the Book. If we fail, we name it, forsake it, and go on.

Think of it: When Jesus Christ returns, His name is “The Word.”

“And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spo-

ken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:47-48).

What is going to judge me at the Bema Seat? The Word. What is going to bless me? The Word. What cleanses me? The Word of God. “Where-withal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word” (Psalm 119:9). What will keep me from sinning? The Word. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11). The Word! The answer is always the Word.

What will help me to know what to do? “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105). What will keep me from getting offended? “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them” (Psalm 119:165).

How do I know I’ve been forgiven? The Word of God says so. What gives me a forgiving heart? The Word.

Let’s be people of the Book. Let’s have marriages based on the precepts of the Book. We need to have families that live by the Book, businesses and churches of the Book.

Lives That Can Be Read

The most beautiful thing in all the world for us to know is found in 2 Corinthians 3:2-6:

“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

“Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.

“And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

“Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

Thank God! Praise God for every word in His Book.

CONCLUSION

The reason we have a Christian day school, the reason we encourage men and women everywhere to attend Bible college (even if they are planning a career in another field), is to keep people in the Book, to give them a true Christian education.

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3). In places where people have forsaken the Bible as their foundation, what can the righteous do? We can choose not to go there. We won’t go to those places, for the Bible says that there is no other foundation that is laid other than Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Hebrews 10:25 says we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, “as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Those are not the words of a man. They are

from the Book. We need to be in the place to hear the Book more than ever because His day is fast approaching. Forsake not the assembly; do it much more, so we can be living epistles known and read of all men, knowing precisely what is in the Book. By God's mercy, make a new commitment to the Word of God.

By God's Word and the living proof of prophecy, we have shown that the Bible is the foundation of every truth in the universe (1 Timothy 3:15). The Word of God is so descriptive. This is the Book that we preach, that we study, and that we believe. We want to manifest its power, its healing, its grace, and its supernatural life.

This Book—the Bible—gives us a supernatural foundation. It is the supernatural Word of God. It reveals supernatural love and forgiveness that results in supernatural reconciliation and restoration to God, with a supernatural manifestation of Christ, the Living Word, as He became God with us (Matthew 1:21-23).

This Book is worth going all the way. It is worth living, loving, obeying, and honoring. Let's choose to live in the light of His Word so we can be a light to the world.