

What's the Point?
What's the point of the bible?
Part 3

Intro: The bible is the #1 best selling book of all time. The Bible often tops over 100 million in sales per year. It is by far the most popular book in history. It has been translated into more languages than any other book in history – the NT is just shy of 1800 translated languages. The bible is the most controversial book in history. Governments fear it. Dictators have tried to eradicate it. And yet, the bible lives on in popularity and influence. No matter what you think about the bible, it is the most unique book on earth.

- Today we're going to ask the question: "What's the point of the bible?" Is it there to make us feel guilty as human beings? Is it there to control us? Does it exist to create religious people? What's the point anyway?

1. The bible helps us understand God's global narrative

- If we do not understand God's plan for people on planet earth, the world He made is going to be a very confusing, fearful place to live in. Without the bible, we have no lens in which to interpret life, events, circumstances, geo-political chaos.

2 Tim. 1:9 "For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus." (NLT)

- God always had a global plan. The bible explains this plan to us so we don't live in fear and anxiety. The bible reminds us that the world is not spinning out of control. We have a God who is in control and is fulfilling an eternal plan.
- The bible gives us understanding on world events – pain and suffering – the origin of evil - purpose and the meaning of life – relationships with God and each other – fear and anxiety – decision making.
- Some of you are wondering; "What is His global narrative?" The same narrative it has been from the beginning. God wants a relationship with you. The bible is a description of what God has done to connect with humanity relationally.
- The bible has one overarching theme – "Redemption." God create a perfect world – sin invades this world and severs relationship – God enacts His plan to save the world. The bible is the story how God saves His creation.
 - In the OT the story is about God establishing Israel – explain
 - In the NT the story is about Jesus and establishing the church - explain
- Because so many people do not understand the eternal story of the bible, they experience life with far more confusion and fear than God ever intended. The bible answers the question: "What's the point of life?"

2. The bible gives us confidence because of its author

2 Tim. 3:16 *“All Scripture is inspired by God...” (NLT)*

- The bible was not written by human beings. God is the author of the bible. Yes, He used people to write it, but the bible is “inspired” by God. Literally means to be breathed out by God.
- Because the author is God, it carries with it supernatural influence and it has spiritual authority over our lives. It’s not a normal book.

Heb. 4:12 *“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” (NLT)*

- Because the bible is spiritually alive and has this much influence it can make people uncomfortable. When you have something exposing your innermost thoughts and desires, it can make you avoid it.
- If people wrote the bible, how could we have confidence in it? How could we have confidence to build our lives upon it? Why would we allow it to have any authority over our decisions and choices? We wouldn’t!
- BUT, if this book came from God as the life manual for human beings, we may have to allow it to influence our lives. If it did come from God, we can live with tremendous confidence that this is the right way to live.
- It is the owner’s manual for human beings.
 - **Illustrate** with my boat owners manual – explain – the specs are described so my engines can run at peak performance.
 - God’s word is the same for us. It’s the owner’s manual directly from the manufacturer. You can live with confidence because the specs come from God.

3. The bible gives us clarity to make decisions

Ps. 119:105 *“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” (NLT)*

Josh. 1:8 *“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” (NLT)*

- The bible is a life book not a rule book. It guides us in making decisions that bless and prosper our lives. It is a book that shows us how God’s world works and how to make decisions to operate in it.
- Yes, the theme of the bible is all about our relationship with God, but with that, the bible shows us how to make decisions in a fallen world. It gives us principles and values to live by that guides our lives.
- The bible is like our life GPS. It positions our lives in alignment with God and his will so we always know where we are and where we’re going.
 - Most of you have and use your GPS in your vehicles. You type in the address and away you go with confidence and clarity. You simply follow the directions.
 - Most of the time the GPS works – Share – a couple of weeks ago we were trying to get to a grandkid’s soccer game – Timber Park - explain

- How do I use the bible to make decisions? If I am making a decision that violates a biblical truth or principal, I know it is the wrong direction. I am making a wrong decision. It is not a decision God wants you to make.
- Therefore, knowing the bible is critical in decision making. The more you know the bible, the better the decisions you will make.
- You also must be willing to submit your decisions to God's word. Two factors are essential to this.
 - Do you see God's word as authoritative?
 - Do you trust God's word as the best way to live your life?
- If you doubt either one of these, you will usually trust yourself instead of God's word.

4. The bible protects us from being deceived

Ps. 119:160 "The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever." (NLT)

2 Tim. 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true..."

- We live in a world where it's difficult to know what to believe. Who is telling us the truth? Who do we listen to? Who do we trust?
- Can't trust social media – can't trust major news outlets – can't trust politicians – It's difficult to keep trusting our medical professionals – can't trust the food industry – it just seems like the world is trapped in deception.
- BUT, the bible is true. The bible tells us why there is deception. There is a spiritual enemy. The devil or Satan is real, and his primary role is one of deception. Listen to Jesus...

John 8:44 "For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies." (NLT)

- There is a real spiritual enemy in this world and one of his primary tactics is lies and deception. Therefore, without knowing truth, we will be deceived by Satan and his lies.
- This also explains why there is so much deception in this world. Satan and his demonic forces are actively engaged on planet earth keeping people from truth. Lies and deception are part of this fallen world.
- BUT, we have a source of truth that does not change. God's truth is eternal. God's truth will stand forever. God's truth is not subjective and changing. It is absolute and unchanging.
- This is why talking about absolute truth is so offensive to some people. They believe one of Satan's biggest lies that truth is relative. Truth is whatever you want it to be. Truth is whatever you feel.

The 2025 report indicates that 74% of adults trust feelings over facts to discern moral truth, and two-thirds reject absolute moral truth.

Barna Research:

A study found a 3-to-1 margin (64% vs. 22%) of adults said truth is always relative, a perspective even more pronounced among teenagers (83%)

- With data like this, it's no wonder we have a society so lost. They have no GPS and your feelings are not an objective way to live your life or make decisions. When you no longer believe in absolute truth, we are already deceived by a supernatural enemy.

5. The bible transforms our lives

2 Tim. 3:16-17 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." (NLT)

- Notice all the things that God's word accomplishes in our lives. Teaches us what is true – we realize what is wrong – corrects us when we're wrong – teaches us to do right – it prepares and equips us for good works in this life. God uses His word to change and transform our lives. HOW?

Rom. 12:2 "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think..." (NLT)

- God transforms us by changing the way we think. Why does He need to do this? Because we all have wrong thinking that negatively impacts our lives. We all believe things that are not true. We've all been deceived by our spiritual enemy. The only way we really change is when we are finally set free by truth. (John 8:32)
- Our thinking impacts our behavior and our thoughts and behavior impacts our emotions. Therefore, if we think incorrectly our behavior follows and so do our feelings.
- The bible begins to change our lives by changing our thinking so it aligns with God and His truth. If we do not see life through the lens of the word of God Satan will deceive us.
- Ever wonder why it's so hard to consistently read God's word? There's a spiritual battle going on for your life. Satan knows if you read and understand this book, it will change your life, and he loses control. He does not want you exposed to truth.
- The bible does not strict your life...it sets you free! One of the greatest things you can do this year to change your life to begin reading the bible every day. Here in a few minutes I'll be talking about tools you can get today to begin this journey.

6. The bible reveals how to have a relationship with God

John 5:39-40 "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰ Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life." (NLT)

- This is the ultimate point of the bible. The bible points to Jesus! The bible points to our need for relationship with God. We are designed by our Creator for a relationship with Him and the bible explains what God did so relationship can happen.

Eph. 1:7 "He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins." (NLT)

- The bible explains the point of Jesus' life and why he died on a cross for our sin. The bible explains that Jesus came to restore relationship not create religious people. AND it is the bible that tells us the truth that there is only ONE way to experience forgiveness and eternal life.

John 14:6 "Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." (NLT)

- Satan wants people to believe there are many roads that all lead to God...but that's a lie. The truth is there is only one way...and Jesus alone is that one way.
- The bible tells us that God loves you. He loves you profoundly despite your past, your mistakes, your rebellion, your choices you're not proud of. Nothing has stopped God from loving you. He wants you! Now...will you want Him?
- Will you go to Jesus to receive this life?

Prayer

Before we go, I want to talk about next steps. I want to talk about applying this message.

EXPLAIN

- We have bibles available today for anyone who needs one
- We have reading plans available
- We have a "Next Steps" guide for you