The Role of the Bible

Lesson 4, 2nd Quarter, April 18–April 24, 2026

Sabbath Afternoon April 18

Memory Text:

"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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." KJV — Hebrews 4:12

"The study of the Bible will give strength to the intellect. Says the psalmist, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." (Psalm 119:130.) The question has often been asked me, "Should the Bible become the important book in our schools?" It is a precious book, a wonderful book. It is a treasury containing jewels of precious value. It is a history that opens to us the beginning of all things, and reveals God's dealings with the human family from the time when the occurrences of history begin. Of all the books that have been published the world, be they ever so valuable, the Bible is the Book of books, and is most deserving of the closest study and attention. It goes not only the history of the creation of the world, but it reveals the Creator of the universe. It contains instruction concerning the wonders of the universe, and it reveals to our understanding the Author of the heavens and the earth. It unfolds a simple and complete system of theology and philosophy. Those who are close students of the word of God, and who obey its instructions, and love its plain truths, will improve in mind and manners. It is an endowment of God that should awaken in every heart the most sincere gratitude; for it is the revelation of God to man." CT 126.2

"The Bible is a book which disclosures the principles of right and truth. It contains whatever is needful for us to know of God's requirements, and the duties and destiny of the human family. Regarded as it should be, it would be a new book to us, which, it will be found far more effective than any other book in the world, in guiding wayfarers in the paths of this life, as well as in aiding the soul up the ladder of litigress which reaches to heaven. God cares for us as intellectual beings, and he has given us his word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway. "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." (Psalm 119:130.) It is not the mere reading of the word that will accomplish the result that is designed by Heaven, but the truth revealed in the word of God must find an entrance into the heart, if the good intended is obtained." CE 108.1

Sunday April 19

The Tight Fingers of Pride

Even when we have an up-and-down and very inconsistent relationship with God, He is wonderfully constant, as Lamentations 3:22, 23 tells us. What do you notice in these verses, and how do they provide a firm foundation for our relationship?

"God has revealed his interest in fallen men by giving them a Saviour. He covenanted not to stir up his wrath against the perversity of his children, not to consume them in his hot displeasure, until every advantage had been given them through all their period of probation. And even when they shall refuse his warnings, his messages of invitation, the presentation of his righteousness; when they continue to trample on the law of God and despise his mercy, he will not break forth upon them in his great anger. He leaves all judgment to his Son, whom he gave as a sin offering for the world. RH December 1, 1896, par. 1.

"God has a yearning desire to save the purchase of the blood of Christ from the sure result of a wrong course of action, for sin, if permitted, will bring upon them the wrath of the rejected Lamb. Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in, and will sup with him, and he with me." Those who refuse the invitation, "and make light of the things that he may make peace with me, and he shall make peace with me," reject the offer of the attributes of character which will sanctify them as sons and daughters of God. For so many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name (What name?—Immanuel, the Son of God); which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth." RH December 1, 1896, par. 17

"The Word is our instructor. All who will be doers of the word, in sincerity and truth, will behold his glory,—"the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." Then there is indeed a new birth, a transformation of character. Of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. This makes us living epistles, known and read of all men." The truth hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." RH December 1, 1896, par. 18

Monday April 20

Scripture, the Authority

The Bible's authority and function are clearly declared within its pages. Read and copy our 2 Timothy 3:15–17. What more do we need to know about the Bible's role in our lives?

"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 Tim. 3:16, 17.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Pet. 1:20, 21.

Affirmatively stated, all Scripture (not merely a part of it) is inspired. Negatively stated, none of it is primarily interpretive. For the reason that it did not come of men but of God, it can be interpreted by men only as and when God's Spirit directs. Accordingly, every jot and tittle of Scripture and its interpretation belongs to God, and only whatever he gives to men is the mind of God doctrinally, to reprove and to correct him, and rightously to instruct him, unto perfection of faith and practice.

Let us therefore covenant with the Lord that henceforth we shall neither accept nor advance as revealed truth any interpretation of Inspiration, and Holy Spirit, and Scripture, which would provoke this solemn promise to the Lord, we must first, of course, understand the phenomenon of Inspiration.

"The word of God is the standard of character. In giving us this word, God has put us in possession of every truth essential to salvation. Thousands have drawn water from these wells of life, yet there is no diminishing of the supply. Thousands have set the Lord before them, and by beholding have become changed into the same image. But these searchers have not exhausted these grand and holy themes. Thousands more may engage in the work of searching out the mysteries of salvation. GW 250.4

"As the worker studies the life of Christ, and the character of His mission is dwelt upon, each fresh search will reveal something more deeply interesting than has yet been unfolded. The subject is inexhaustible. The work of the incarnation of Christ, His atoning sacrifice and mediatorial work, will employ the mind of the diligent student as long as time shall last. Every day will be marked to its unnumbered years, he will exclaim, "Great is the mystery of godliness"! 1 Timothy 3:16." GW 251.1

Tuesday April 21

Bible Truth

John 17:17 - "If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, purifying the soul, soul, and spirit in his own image. Then God can use us to do His will. The power given us works from within outwardly, leading us to communicate to others the truth that has been so precious to ourselves." CDG 180.1

"The truths of the word of God meet man's great practical necessity—the conversion of the soul through faith. These grand principles are not to be thought too pure and holy to be brought into our life. They are intended to be woven into our ordinary business, generally, yet their vital influence is to be woven into human experience. They are to permeate all the great things and all the little things of life. COL 100.2

"Received into the heart, the leaven of truth will regulate the desires, purify the thoughts, and ennoble the character. It will lighten the burdens of the mind and the energies of the soul. It enlarges the capacity for feeling, for loving." COL 101.1

Prov. 30:5, 6 - " We are not doing the will of God when we speculate upon things that He has seen fit to withhold from us. We are not to be curious, to pry into the secret things of God, but the Bible is to be cherished, loved, honored, and obeyed. The Bible is the revelation of God to man, and God is dishonored in their efforts to find out God. What they need to inquire at this time is, "What is the duty of ministers and people?" 1 Selected Messages, 16 MR 317.1

Ps. 12:6 - "In His word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of God's will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience. "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16, 17. R.V. GC xii.1

"The Bible is God's voice speaking to us just as surely as though we could hear him with our ears. The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. Do we receive the Bible as the oracle of God? If we realized the importance of this Word, with what awe would we open it, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts. The reading and contemplating of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Most High. HP 134.2

Wednesday April 22

Bible Claims

What is David's advice in Psalm 119:11, and how might you follow it? (See also Heb. 4:12.)

"The Bible is our rule of faith and doctrine. There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and invigorate the faculties than the study of the word of God. No other book is so powerful to elevate the thoughts or give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times. GW 249.2

"Thousands of men who minister in the pulpit are lacking in the essential qualities of mind and character because they do not search diligently into the study of the Scriptures. They are content with a superficial knowledge of the truths of God's word, and they prefer to go on being much in darkness rather than to take the pains to search for the hidden treasure." GW 251.2

"The life of God, which gives life to the world, is in His word. It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons. By His word He stilled the sea and raised the dead. And the people bore witness that His word was with power. He spoke the word of God as he had spoken it to all the patriarchs and prophets and teachers. The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ. It is our only source of power. GW 250.2

"This word does not repress activity. It opens before the conscientious searcher channels for activity. It does not leave men in uncertainty, without an object, but places before them the highest of all aims,—the winning of souls to Christ. It puts in the hand a lamp that lights the way to heaven. It tells of unsearchable riches, treasure beyond estimate. GW 250.3

"The word of God is the standard of character. In giving us this word, God has put us in possession of every truth essential to salvation. Thousands have drawn water from these wells of life, yet there is no diminishing of the supply. Thousands have set the Lord before them, and by beholding have become changed into the same image. But these searchers have not exhausted these grand and holy themes. Thousands more may engage in the work of searching out the mysteries of salvation." GW 250.4

Thursday April 23

State of the Heart

Our ability to receive instruction from God's Word (Job 22:22) depends largely on what the state of our hearts is (see also Heb. 4:12). How does this relate to Christ's parable in Luke 8:4–15?

"Read also the third chapter of this book, and study and pray over these words. As a people our faith and practice need to be energized by the Holy Spirit. No ruling power that would compel man to obey the dictates of the holy law of God should be exercised. "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils," the Lord commands. By turning the minds of men to lean on human wisdom, we place a wall between God and man, so that there is not a seeing of Him who is invisible. TM 483.2

"In our individual experience we are to be taught of God. When we seek Him with a sincere heart, we will confess to him our defects of character, and He has promised to receive all who come to Him in humble dependence. The one who yields to the claims of God will have the abiding presence of Christ, and this companionship will be to him a very precious thing. Taking hold of divine wisdom, he will be able to discern between the spirit that has been through God, day by day he will learn more full lessons in his relations to the One who has promised to be a very present help in every time of need." TM 483.3

So, both our attitude toward the Bible and the way we approach reading it are very important when it comes to growing in a relationship with God. How does Paul explain this in 1 Thessalonians 2:13?

"The Bible is God's voice speaking to us just as surely as though we could hear Him with our ears. The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. Do we receive the Bible as the oracle of God? If we realized the importance of this Word, with what awe would we open it, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts. The reading and contemplating of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Most High. HP 134.2

"God's Word is a message to us to be obeyed, a volume to be pressed diligently, and with a spirit willing to take in the truths written for the admonition of those upon whom the ends of the world are come. It must not be neglected for any other book. ... When we open the Bible, let us compare our lives with its requirements, measuring our character by the great moral standard of righteousness." HP 134.3

Friday April 24

Further Thought

"The Bible is not evaded to its place, and yet of what infinite importance it is to the souls of men. In searching its pages, we move through scenes majestic and eternal. We behold Jesus, the Son of God, coming to our world, and engaging in the mysterious conflict that discomfited the powers of darkness. O how wonderful, how almost incredible it is, that the infinite God would consent to the humiliation of a long life of sorrow and care in behalf of the Scripture commentary, the world, and he will not come from such a contemplation without being elevated, purified, and ennobled. FE 131.1

"The Bible is a book which discloses the principles of right and truth. It contains whatever is needful for the soul to know of God's requirements, and the duties and destiny of the human family. It unfolds a simple and complete system of theology and philosophy. It contains whatever is needful for us to know of God's dealings with the human family from the time when the occurrences of history begin. Of all the books that have been published the world, be they ever so valuable, the Bible is the Book of books, and is most deserving of the closest study and attention. It goes not only the history of the creation of the world, but it reveals the Creator of the universe. It contains instruction concerning the wonders of the universe, and it reveals to our understanding the Author of the heavens and the earth. It unfolds a simple and complete system of theology and philosophy. Those who are close students of the word of God, and who obey its instructions, and love its plain truths, will improve in mind and manners. It is an endowment of God that should awaken in every heart the most sincere gratitude; for it is the revelation of God to man." CT 126.2

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"The best educated in the sciences are not always the most effective instruments for God's use. There are many who find instruction beneficial, and those who have had the advantages are obtaining knowledge of books, taking their places, because the latter have a knowledge of practical godliness, and have learned in the school of Christ how to impart the knowledge they have received. Many often cease to be learners, are self-sufficient, and above being taught, even by Jesus, who was the greatest teacher the world ever knew. Those who have grown and expanded, whose reasoning faculties have been improved by deep searching of the Scriptures, that they may know the will of God, will come into positions of usefulness; for the word of God has had an entrance into their life and character. It must be studied, and work, even to the passing asunder of the joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart. God's word is to become the nourishment by which the Christian must grow strong in spirit and in intellect. It must be the food for truth and righteousness." FE 132.1