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The Bible is the most important book ever written. I love these quotes from Billy Graham about the Bible:

- The Bible is God's book of promises, and unlike the books of men, it does not change or get out of date.
- Let the study of the Bible become central in your life—not just so you will know it, but that you will obey it.
- The sword of the Spirit—the Bible—is the weapon God has provided for us to use in this battle between truth and deception. Make it a priority to wield that sword skillfully.
- [The Bible] has survived attacks of every kind. Neither barbaric vandalism nor civilized scholarship has touched it. Neither the burning of the fire nor the laughter of skepticism has accomplished its annihilation. Through the many dark ages of man, its glorious promises have survived unchanged. Billy Graham

The Bible is the most incredible gift from God to man surpassed only by Jesus Christ and the creation itself! It is the most copied, published, translated, transliterated (~~baptizo to baptize~~) book ever. It has the most versions and paraphrases, and is the most honored and at the same time most reviled document ever put into a written language. It is available in more languages than any other document. It has been studied for errors and discrepancies for thousands of years and remains unscathed and unblemished by the numerous scholastic investigations. The Holy Bible is inerrant and any perceived deviation from perfection is because of the complications of living language, interpretations, and other derivatives of human fault, whether accidental or deliberate to depreciate its message and revelation to mankind.

The Bible is THE sacred Book, the one of a kind and only possible written revelation of GOD to man. The Bible is a collection of 66 books with 40 authors written over 1500 years and is venerated by Christians as uniquely and entirely inspired by God and thus authoritative, providing guidelines for belief, behavior, joy and peace for the duration of physical life on earth. Of the 66 books, 39 are OT and 27 are in the NT. Those 66 books contain 1,189 chapters and 783,137 words in the King James Version. A handout sheet is available with the Bible display in the foyer answering the question: "Why are there so many different versions of the Bible?" And oh yes, all those Bibles on display are free. If you need an extra Bible, or have a friend or neighbor you can take a Bible to, please take as many as you can use rather than having them setting on a shelf or in a cabinet.

The Bible's Internal testimonies are numerous and very specific, here are a few examples:
 John 20:30-31 *Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

John 7:37-38 *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.*

Rom 15: 4 *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

Rom 16:25-27 *Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him- 27 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

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

2 Peter 1:19-21 *And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Rev 1:3 *Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.*

Rev 22:7 *“And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”* *ESV*

Rev 22:18-19 *I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.* *ESV*

~~A more didactic (intended for teaching) wording is:~~

We believe and teach the Bible reveals the SOVEREIGN CREATOR, it is the plenary and verbal inspiration of GOD, inerrant, and infallible. The Bible is the illumination of righteous values for we created humans to know, to live by, and to train others for the purposeful fullness of life for which we were conceived.

Two terms often used in any discussion of the inspiration of the Bible are plenary and verbal. **Plenary** is a term meaning "full" or "complete," or "absolute." It means that each book, chapter, and paragraph of the Bible is equally derived from God. **Verbal** inspiration emphasizes the truth that the wording of the text, as well as the ideas conveyed are supernaturally inspired by God through the Holy Spirit.

Still other terms often used when discussing the inspiration of the Bible:

Inerrancy, is the view that the Bible's teaching is true on everything of which it speaks. The Bible is not just a useful body of human ideas. It makes clear the mind of God Himself.

Infallibility refers to the effectiveness of the wording in conveying the reliable ideas, as well as the effectiveness of those ideas when used by the all-powerful Holy Spirit. Isaiah 55:10 -11 is an example:

*10 As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
11 **so is my word** that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

Regarding The inspiration of the Bible, One author has said: “The doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture is of immense importance. This is at once apparent when one considers that all evangelical Christian doctrines are developed from the Bible and rest upon it for authority.”

That writers use of the word “inspiration” is in a technical sense referring to the Holy Spirit's supernatural guidance of those who received special revelation from God as they wrote the books of the Bible. The end result of this inspiration is that the Bible conveys the truths which God wanted His people to know and to communicate to the world.

Evangelical Christians agree that the primary purpose of the Bible is to lead people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior. But everything taught by the Bible on any subject is helpful and instructive for the complete Christian life as expressed in 2 Tim 3:16-17
16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Because Christianity does relate to the real world, the Bible's declarations about the earth and history are completely trustworthy.

Revelation in the Bible may be defined as an operation of God communicating to man truth that otherwise man could not know.

Illumination is a ministry of the Holy Spirit that enables all who are in a growing relation with God to understand the written revelation as expressed in 1 Corinthians 2:14 *The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit*

Exactly what role did the human writers of the Bible play in their transmission of God's message? They were not totally passive like a robot. Their distinctive ways of writing stands out as illustrated in the four gospels, which describe the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Luke the beloved physician, used many medical terms not found in Matthew, Mark, or John. Some Biblical writers like Moses and Paul were highly educated, others were not. The Bible authorship is a model of the real world in which we live.

Followers of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will examine and model His view of the Old

Testament Scriptures and for that matter, the entire Bible. JESUS endorsed all three sections of the OT Hebrew Bible: the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms (~~Writings~~). Jesus accepted as fact historical details like Adam and Eve at the beginning of time as noted in (Matt 19:4); Abel's murder of Cain (Luke 11:51); Noah, the ark, and the Flood (Matt 24:37-39); the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:28-30); and Moses' authorship of the PENTATEUCH (John 5:46). AND as Jesus said in Luke 24:44 *All things must be fulfilled," JESUS said, "which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me"*. THEN in (Matt 22:29) *People were mistaken, Jesus said, "not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God"*. Jesus expressed His concern for unbelievers:(Luke 24:25) *"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"*

Those who believe all that the Bible affirms should live faithfully according to its instruction in all personal relationships. Classic for we today is Col 3:13 *Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* How different would be your world view and personal lives if we practiced that kind of forgiveness, forgiveness like the unmerited favor of God's forgiveness to us. And how different would be the whole world – war and all conflict would be unthinkable if all mankind would *Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

Central to the Bible's teaching and forgiveness is love for God and love for neighbor as HE taught and modeled for us. If we who truly believe in biblical inerrancy but do not love God and our neighbors, then our defense of scriptural authority will *"become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal"* as recorded (1 Cor 13:1).

A couple of familiar sayings concerning the Bible and our appropriate response are:

- The Bible only, makes Christians only.
- In essentials unity,
in opinions liberty,
but in all things love.

A scriptural summary regarding the Bible is Heb 4:12-16 ***For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*** NIV

But lest we forget for a moment the great hater of the Bible and hater of any proclamation of God's Holy word is satan and his demonic followers. They fear the Bible and It's dissemination into the minds of people.— but I am reminded of the tremendous ministry of the Gideon's International as well as all missionaries and our fellow Christian brothers and sisters who love the Bible and through its

witness grow in willingness to serve God as is the purpose of our creation.

It is a sad commentary that the movement to remove the Bible in our culture is exceptionally well organized, powerful and has been incredibly effective. But still we fight on with groups like the Gideon's International and continue to make the Bible available to everyone who will accept one.

Praise the Lord for all who hold the Holy Bible as a sacred revelation of God to us for our well-being and to be faithful in disseminating the truth to the world.

Psalm 119:105 summarizes the message of the Bible very succinctly: *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. AMEN*

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