

THE BIG IDEA: The Bible is the story of God about the Son of God told by the Spirit of God

The Take-Off

Quick recap: we're learning that the born again life looks different than the old life because we're born into a new kingdom

To this point, we've talked about the new life being marked by Baptism and Christian Fellowship

Last week, we saw 9 people take the next step of baptism - not in order to be saved, but in order to say YES in simple obedience to the commands of Jesus

Let me remind all of us that doing it is the point. John 13:17 - the blessing comes from doing, not from learning

I know a lot of Bible smart people who are anything but blessed simply because they've never done anything with what they've learned

What have you done since you learned about being born again? About baptism? That bad company corrupts good morals?

I ask that because I'm going to keep teaching you new marks of the born again life, but if you're simply taking notes without taking action, it's not going to benefit you

That's really important to remember as we turn this morning to the Bible because when it comes to the Bible, the point is to learn it and live it

I'll repeat that at the end, but for now, let's ask and answer a few questions.

1. What makes the Bible so special?

- a. It's reliable
 - Lack of OT Manuscripts makes it reliable
 - The method used for copying manuscripts makes it reliable
- b. It's unique
 - In its circulation
 - In its survival
 - In its continuity (*possibly use writing illustration here*)

2. What makes the Bible so important?

- a. The fact that the Bible is reliable and unique doesn't answer our second question: **what makes the Bible so important?**
- b. It's God's Word.
- c. In fact, the reason why 40+ people wrote it over 1600 years on 3 continents and it still has one message is simple: it has ONE author - God.
- d. Because it's His word, we know these statements are true:
 - It's written by God through men
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)** / the Word of God from the Breath of God
 - Only 2 things have God's breath: the souls of men and the Word of God
 - **2 Peter 3:16 (NIV)** / Peter called Paul's writing scripture
 - **John 10:34-35 (NIV)** / Jesus refers to the Law as scripture
 - It's protected by God from men
 - Many have tried to destroy it, and yet they are dead and the Bible isn't
 - Why? A supernatural God watching over His supernatural Word!
 - **Jeremiah 1:12 (NASB)**
 - It prophesies about God to men
 - Prophecies in the Bible set it apart from other "holy" books
 - The Koran has no prophecies about a man who would come named Mohammed
 - The Bible has over 400 prophecies about a man who would come named Jesus - all fulfilled
 - Lee Strobel was an atheist who became a follower of Jesus because of the overwhelming evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be
 - ➔ Cover the earth with one and a half inch white tile
 - ➔ Mark on with a red X underneath
 - ➔ Allow one person to roam an entire lifetime over the entire earth and bend down one time to pick up on tile

- ➔ The odds that he or she would pick the marked tile are the same odds of one man fulfilling just 8 of the hundreds of prophecies
- ➔ Jesus fulfilled them all
- How is that possible? **2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)** / **the Bible is the story of God about the Son of God told by the Spirit of God**

The Landing

And that doesn't even guarantee that it'll be read by the people of God

How sad is that? Among church attenders, less than a quarter read the Bible daily even though Proverbs 4:21 (NIV) tells us not to lose sight of God's word!

See, many assume that the point of the Bible is to love it, but the point is actually to learn it and live it

John 13:17 (NIV) / the blessing is in living what we know, not in simply adding to what we know

With more tools at our disposal, not engaging the Bible is a statement about our desire, not our ability

I'm calling you back to the Bible - back to a place of cherishing the Father's words

Let's pray