**THE POWER OF THE BIBLE**

**Finishing Strong – Part 4**

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**Psalms 19:7-14 – Scripture Reading**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)**
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.

The general attitude of secular society toward the Bible is that is either a Book of Myths or Dangerous Propaganda. That's why there are high school teachers in this country who will not allow students to write papers on a Biblical theme, and there are high school principals who ban on-campus student-led Bible study — even though both are violations of the students' constitutional rights.

One of the reasons that the Bible isn't taken seriously in our society is that there are pastors who don't take the Bible as seriously as they should. In some seminaries a Masters of Divinity degree requires only 9 hours — 3 classes — of Bible courses.

The Christian Booksellers Association asserts that 90% of US homes contain at least one Bible; the average residence includes four. Also, the Bible is sold in more than 450 English language versions. The Bible is still the best selling book in the world.

Many people are interested in the Bible. That is not surprising, because it is a powerful book. Those who attack it have reason to, because the Bible has been known to change people's lives. If you take the Bible seriously, it has the power to change your life. Today we'll examine three ways the Bible can change your life.

1. **The Bible Shows Us How To Be Saved**

**2 Timothy 3:15 (NLT2)**
You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

**Romans 1:16 (KJV)**
For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The Bible shows us how to be saved. The plan of salvation we discover in the pages of Scripture stands in sharp contrast to the world's plan. The world's idea is that salvation is something you earn; the Bible teaches that it is a gift from God. [Ephesians 2:8-9] The world's idea that all religions lead to God; the Bible teaches that Jesus is the only way [Acts 4:12, John 14:6]. The world's idea is that God helps those who help themselves; the Bible teaches that God helps those who can't help themselves. [Psalm 34:6]

1. **The Bible Shows The Power Of Transformation**

**Psalm 19:7-10 (KJV)**
The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)**
Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1. **The Bible Shows Us How To Live**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT2)**
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. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

**Romans 1:17 (NIV)**
For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

This is why the enemies of the Bible consider it to be such a dangerous book. It is not a book that people merely read; it is a book that people live. When people begin taking the Bible seriously, they have the power to change the course of history.