

The Scriptures

1. All scripture is given by inspiration of God (2Tim 3:16; 2Pet 1:16-21).
2. The scriptures are the very words of God (Matt 4:4; 1Cor 2:12-13; John 10:35; 1Thes 2:13; Rev 1:3; 22:18-19)
3. Being from God, every word of scripture is true (Titus 1:2; Psalm 119:160; Prov 22:20-22; 2Tim 2:15) and pure (Psalm 12:6,7; 119:160; Prov 30:5-6).
4. God has promised to preserve His words forever (Psalm 12:6-7; 100:5; 119:152, 160; Isa 40:8; Mat 5:17-18; 24:35; Luke 21:33; 1Pet 1:24-25).
5. Jesus Christ believed the scriptures, quoted the scriptures, taught the scriptures, commanded men to search the scriptures, opened people's understanding of the scriptures, and reproved people for not knowing the scriptures and for not believing the scriptures (Mat 4:4-7; 5:17-18; 21:42; 19:4-5; 22:29; 26:54-56; Mark 12:10; 14:49; Luke 4:21; 24:25-27,32,45; John 5:39; 7:38; 13:18; 17:12, 17; 19:28). The above references show that Jesus viewed the Old Testament documents of his day as scripture from God. He also viewed his own words to be God's words (John 6:63; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10; Matt 5:22,28,32,34; Luke 21:33). Jesus endorsed the New Testament scriptures by promising to send the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth and bring to their remembrance all things he had said to them (John 14:26; 16:13). The Holy Spirit moved the apostles of Jesus to speak words which were written down and referred to as scripture or God's word (2Peter 1:21 with 3:15-16 and Rom 16:22; 1Cor 2:12-13; 14:37; 1Thes 2:13).
6. The scriptures testify of Jesus (John 5:39; Mat 21:42; Luke 24:25-27, 44-46; Acts 8:35; 18:28; 2Tim 3:15; Heb 10:1-14; 1John 5:10). Jesus Christ is THE grand theme of the scriptures, being referred to hundreds of times by various names and titles. The name "Jesus" is found in scripture 973 times. Hundreds of years in advance, the Old Testament scriptures predicted Jesus' first coming into the world in detailed prophecies regarding His birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection (1Pet 1:20; Rev 13:8; Gen 3:15; Deut 18:15; Mic 5:2; Isa 7:14; 9:6,7; 35:4-6; 53:1-10; Dan 9:24-25; Psalm 16:10 with Acts 2:29-32). The New Testament scriptures document Jesus' fulfillment of these prophecies and provide a record and explanation of Jesus' birth, life, ministry, teachings, deeds, death, resurrection, ascension, and His promise of His return to earth in the future.
7. The scriptures are essential to the believer's relationship with God and to his fellow man (2Tim 3:16,17). For example, the scriptures are vital to the believer's salvation (2Tim 3:15; 1Pet 1:23), assurance of salvation (John 5:39; 1John 5:13), sanctification (John 17:17), approval to God (2Tim 2:15), discernment of truth versus error (2Tim 3:16; Acts 17:11), direction and guidance (Psalm 119:105; 2Tim 3:16), wisdom and understanding (Prov 2:1,2), spiritual maturity (Mat 4:4; 2Tim 3:16, 17; 1Pet 2:2; Heb 5:12-6:1), identification and resistance of sin (Heb 4:12; Rom 7:7; Mat 4:4-7; Psalm 119:9-11), character development (2Tim 3:16, 17), and emotional health (1John 1:4; Prov 3:13; John 13:17; 1John 2:5).
8. Every person should read the scriptures (Rev 1:3), study the scriptures (Acts 17:11; 2Tim 2:15), meditate in the scriptures (Psalm 119:48), learn the scriptures (Rom 15:4), know the scriptures (2Tim 3:15), believe the scriptures (Luke 24:25), trust the scriptures (Psalm 119:42), obey the scriptures (2Thes 3:14), love the scriptures (Psalm 119:47), take comfort in the scriptures (Rom 15:4), and teach the scriptures to others (Mat 28:19; Psalm 51:13).