

Some thoughts on the Bible

In our pondering as we celebrate the 499th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and as we invite God, afresh, to reform us these quotations are offered to help us appreciate this wonderful gift from God. Rockingham 31/10/2016

The Bible

1. “The Scripture is that wherewith God draweth us unto Him. The scriptures sprang out of God, and flow unto Christ, and were given to lead us to Christ. Thou must therefore go along by the scripture as by a line, until thou come at Christ, which is the ways end and resting place”. William Tyndale.
2. “This book, which is the Word of God, the most precious jewel, the most holy relic that remaineth upon earth”. Thomas Cranmer.
3. “The Bible is a book of simple clarity but also of intentional mystery; both are indispensable aspects of wonder. In its clarity we celebrate our position as the pinnacle of God’s creation. In its mystery we are dwarfed”. Ravi Zacharias.
4. “The Bible is a letter God hath sent to us, prayer is a letter we send to Him”. Matthew Henry.
5. “The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home”. Augustine of Hippo.
6. “The Bible is the portrait of Jesus Christ”. John Stott.

The Bible’s Purpose

7. Charles Spurgeon spoke of a poor woman who was challenged by an agnostic to prove that the Bible in her hand was God’s Word. She pointed to the sun and said “can you prove that there

is a sun in the sky?” The agnostic answered : “of course, the proof is that it warms me and I see it’s light”. “That is it” she replied, “and the best proof that this book is the Word of God is that it warms and lights my soul”.

8. “The Bible has many sword like qualities. It pricks the conscience, and wounds the pride of sinners. It cuts away our camouflage and pierces our defences. It lays bare our sin and need, and kills all false doctrine by its deft, sharp thrusts”. John Stott.

9. “Back to the Bible or back to the jungle”. Luis Palau.

10. “Sin will keep you from this book, but this book will keep you from sin”. R.B.S. Hammond.

11. “When the Bible speaks, God speaks”. B.B. Warfield.

12. “Give me a candle and the Bible, and shut me up in a dark dungeon, and I will tell you what the whole world is doing”. Anon.

13. “Other books were given for information, the Bible was given for our transformation”.

14. “If we be ignorant they will instruct us, if we be out of the way they will bring us home, if we be out of order they will reform us, if in heaviness they will comfort us, if dull, quicken us, if cold, enflame us”. Translators Preface to the KJV.

15. An American G.I to South Sea Islander – you don’t read that book (Bible) do you...we gave up reading it long ago... S.S.I replied “it’s a good job we haven’t given up reading it because by now we would have eaten you!”

16. **B**asic **I**nstructions **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth

The Bible and the Holy Spirit

17. "The Word is the chariot in which the Spirit of God rides; whichever way the tide of the Word runs, that way the wind of the Spirit blows". Thomas Watson.

18. "For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit". 2 Peter 1:21

19. "The moment Christianity loses touch with the inspiration of the New Testament it tends to sink to a sub Christian level, and its moral witness is weakened or obscured". F.R. Barry.

20. "The Bible applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit, is the chief means by which men are built up and established in the faith, after their conversion." J.C. Ryle

21. "It is not the work of the Spirit to tell you the meaning of Scripture, and give you the knowledge of divinity, without your own study and labour, but to bless that study, and give you knowledge thereby...to reject study on the pretence of the sufficiency of the Spirit, is to reject Scripture itself." Richard Baxter

Our reading of the Bible

22 "The word of God...is certain and cannot fail us; it is clear and does not let us wander in darkness. It teaches itself, it explains itself and it brings the light of full salvation and grace to the human soul". Zwingli.

23. "The scriptures neither reveal their directives nor make available their power to the casual, superficial and spasmodic reader". J. Alec Motyer.

24. "Make the Book live to me O Lord. Show me Yourself within your Word. Show me myself and show me my Saviour. And make the Book live to me". R. Hudson Pope.

25. "Apply yourself wholly to the Scriptures and apply the Scriptures wholly to yourself". Bengel.

26. Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that encouraged and supported by your Holy Word, we may embrace and always hold fast the joyful hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. Prayer Book Collect Advent 2.

27. "Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this". 2 Timothy 2:7

28. "Nobody ever outgrows scripture, the book widens and deepens with our years". C.H. Spurgeon.

29. "The existence of the Bible, as a book for the people, is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced. Every attempt to belittle it is a crime against humanity." E. Kant

30."If we fail to live by the Word of God we are consigned to live by the whim of the moment." Charles Colson

32." Defend the Bible? I would as soon defend a lion! Unchain it and it will defend itself." C H Spurgeon

33. "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands it lays hold of me....a simple layman armed with Scripture is to be believed above a Pope or Cardinal without it."
Martin Luther

34. Psalm 119 on the fruits of Bible reading and obedience.