Why is the Bible Important?

Intro:
- illus.: song #459, The Precious Book Divine
  - review verses, then chorus

- Why is the Bible Important? – the precious book divine

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The Bible is how God communicating to us
- God only reveals His mind, in His word (Bible) – 2 Pet. 1:20-21
  - 1 Cor. 2:10-13 only know God’s thoughts (commands) if go to Bible - Spirit, apostles, Bible
    - illus.: Russia, Kaluga, people wanted copy of Bible more than anything we had to offer

- absolute truth revealed in God’s word (Bible) - religion, morality, life on earth and heaven
  - Jn. 17:17 word is truth
  - 2 Tim. 2:15 accurately handling word of truth

- therefore, we must obey God's word (truth, Jesus)
  - 1 Pet. 1:22-23 obey, truth (word, Bible), purified your souls, born again

- Why is the Bible important? - it’s God’s word, must obey God’s word to be saved, can’t be saved without the Bible

- Does your treatment of the Bible (God’s word) reflect its importance?
  - illus.: terminally ill person on oxygen – pic.
    - they make sure the tanks are filled
    - they always know where their tanks are
    - they treat the oxygen machine with care, making sure it’s maintained
    - they don’t carelessly throw the tanks around, damaging them
  - How should we treat the Bible, since our souls depend on this one book? – pic.
    - carelessly throw it around, purposely damaging it, or take care of it and treasure it
    - forget where we put it, or know where it is, because use it all the time
    - let it sit around and collect dust without being used, or keep it clean by virtue of constant use
The Bible is how God lights our path – the precious book divine
- Ps. 119:105, 130 word, lamp, light, understanding

- illus.: Allan, music teacher at band camp - got lost
- took the high school kids on a late-night hike, to scare them, after telling them scary stories - got lost
- kept walking, finally bumped into camp counselors, who scared the kids really bad - led us out
- counselor was the light to our path – figuratively – led us out
- God’s word lights our path – figuratively – leads us through life, out of sin, to heaven

- Pr. 16:25 without God’s word, we’re doomed to eternal damnation

- illus.: lost at camp (continued)
- without the counselor to lead us out, we wouldn’t have gotten out of the woods that night
- without God’s word, we’d be eternally lost, no way to “get out of the woods”

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The Bible tells us how to be saved – the precious book divine
- illus.: a lot of people telling us lots of different ways to be saved
- pray a prayer of faith
- be christened as a baby and confirmed later when you grow up
- just believe, faith only
- do whatever you think is right
- God / Bible is the only One we can trust to tell us how to be saved

- Acts 26:16-18 purpose / result of God’s word – this is what the Bible (God’s word) does for us
- vs. 18 open our eyes – know truth from lies, know good from evil, know the salvation
  - 2 Cor. 3:15 when obey Jesus, veil removed, enlightened
  - Col. 2:3 treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ
- vs. 18 turn us from darkness to light – dominion of Satan to God – God’s word lights our path
  - Col. 1:13 when obey Jesus, rescued from domain of darkness, transferred into kingdom of Jesus
- vs. 18 so may receive forgiveness of sins / inheritance
- without Bible, would be in darkness without light, would be lost for eternity

- the Bible message, what we must do to be saved
  - believe, repent, confess, baptized, faithfully serve

  - Rom. 10:17 hearing comes before faith
    - obedience / salvation not possible unless we hear (understand) the word of God first

- illus.: Colossinas
  - Col. 1:3-7 history of their salvation – Col. 1:13
    - vs. 7 Epaphras taught them the gospel
    - vs. 5 heard the truth, gospel (from Epaphras’ teaching)
    - vs. 6 understood in truth what they heard – if not understand, hearing does not good

  - application:
    - without the Bible, we can’t be saved
    - without hearing and understanding the gospel, revealed in the Bible, we can’t be saved
The Bible makes us the world’s Bible – light to the world, as it is the light

- illus.: song #460, The World’s Bible
  - review all verses

- we are lights to the world
  - Phil. 2:15-16a lights in the world, holding fast the word of life
  - Matt. 5:14-16 light of the world, like city on a hill not hid

- how are we lights
  - Eph. 5:8-11 walk as children of light, fruit, not participate in sin, expose darkness

- result:
  - Jn. 3:19-20; 15:18-19 some people will hate us, as they hate Jesus and hate the light that exposes their evil
  - Jn. 3:21; 12:46 some people will obey the gospel and be saved, coming to the light, because of our example
    - illus.: Christian wife, by her example (light), can win an unbelieving husband to Christ without saying a word (1 Pet. 3)

Summary / Inv.

- Why is the Bible important?– the precious book divine
  - it’s how God communicates to us
  - it’s how God lights our path
  - it’s how we know the true way to be saved
  - when we obey it, we become the world’s Bible – have a chance of saving some through gospel

- inv.: if you believe the Bible, and you’re not a Christian, today is the day to obey God’s word