

## THE BIBLE: GOD'S WORD

Dear Friend,

I have a pretty strong feeling anybody reading this has a Bible. Most of us even have a “special” Bible. Perhaps a Bible from your mom or dad, a Bible given to you as a child in church, or like us, you have a wedding Bible. Bibles are special because, well God wrote the Bible! I know that is a hard concept to grasp but to simplify it: God gave an anointing of the Holy Spirit and gave direction by his Spirit for what needed to be recorded for all people of all time. Here is the fundamental verse Christianity has used to define the Bible as written by God, “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.” God-breathed means “inspired/directed by God”. Something needs to be understood here: when Paul wrote this verse to Timothy we only had the Old Testament, not the New Testament. So, does that mean only the Old Testament is inspired by God? No. One thing to note is that Peter equates Paul’s writing with scripture in 2 Peter 3:16.

The Bible is an amazing book, but you know that, right? But did you also know this....the Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years. The first writer, Moses; the last writer the Apostle John. The Bible contains 1,189 chapters, but there were no such things as chapters until 1238 A.D. Translated in to 1,200+ languages, it is the most translated book in history. It is the #1 best selling book every year, estimated at 100 million. No book sells more books per year than the Bible, but no book is more stolen per year than the Bible. The most expensive Bible every sold? A first edition Guttenberg Bible printed in 1455 sold in 1987 for 5.39 million dollars.

Do you know the most amazing fact of all? For over 3,500 years (1500 B.C. – 2022 A.D.) God has used His word to change billions of lives. The facts of the Bible are interesting, but the thing that matters most is that you and I read the Bible and let God use it to change our lives!

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Mike*

Prayer Requests: Pastor Dan Kopp, Doyle Whited, Helen Smith (shut-in of the month), Clarabell Harlin (98<sup>th</sup> Birthday August 18<sup>th</sup>)

Events: Women’s Ministry: Thursday, August 25th at 6PM. We have a ministry for you. Grow in God, grow to know each other!