

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

May 28, 2017

Why So Much Emphasis on the Bible?

by Frank Himmel

People sometimes ask, "Why do you put so much emphasis on the Bible?" The answer is simple: it is our sole means of knowing God's will.

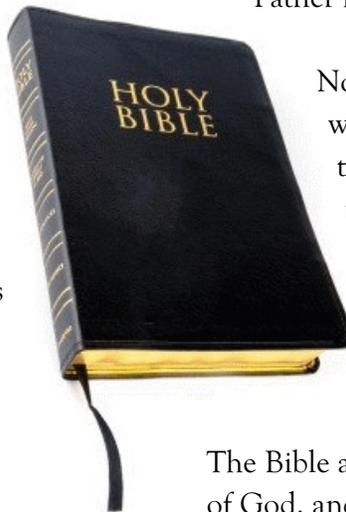
Consider what Jesus said in Matthew 11:27: "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."

The Father chose to reveal His will for us through His Son. "God... in these last days has spoken to us in His Son..." (Hebrews 1:1-2). Jesus emphasized that we cannot know the Father apart from the Son's revelation.

How does the Son reveal the Father and His will? Does He appear to every man and woman in history and speak to them in some direct way? Obviously not. A few claim to have had such revelations, yet their testimony as to what they were told is hopelessly contradictory. The Son's means of revelation is not individual communications.

The Son revealed the Father in His manner of life. When Philip asked Him to show the Father to the disciples, Jesus responded, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father?'" (John 14:9).

Jesus also revealed the Father through His teaching. He explained, "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me" (John 12:49-50).



Now here is the point: both the life and the words of Jesus—Jesus' two means of revealing the Father—are recorded in the Bible and nowhere else. If we cannot know the Father apart from the Son's revelation, and the Son's revelation is found only in the Bible, that makes the Bible our sole means of knowing God's will.

The Bible affirms that we can know of the existence of God, and even a few limited things about His nature, through the creation which surrounds us (Psalm 19:1-6). In fact, such knowledge is so obvious that those who deny it are without excuse (Romans 1:20). Nevertheless, we cannot know God's character or His will for us apart from the Son's revelation, which is unique to Scripture. That is why we put so much emphasis on the Bible! ■

Memorial Day

by Frank Himmel



Monday is Memorial Day, an annual national holiday to remember those who died while serving in the nation's armed forces. More or less directly, these gave their lives to preserve our political freedom. The day is celebrated by

decorating grave sites, displaying flags, a few speeches, a generous supply of cookouts, and sales aplenty!

Sunday is Memorial Day; not just this Sunday but every Sunday. It is a weekly remembrance of Jesus, who died to provide us spiritual freedom, freedom from sin. That was something only He could do (1 Peter 1:18-21). His death is celebrated worldwide by a simple, plain meal.



... The Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). ■

Pure in Heart



by Frank Himmel

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).

In Biblical usage one's *heart* "stands for man's entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and emotional elements" (Vine). With it we think, reason, decide, will, judge, feel, etc. The heart is thus critical to all we are. "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

The blessed man is one whose heart is pure. A pure heart is one that has been cleansed by God through forgiveness (1 Peter 1:22). Such a cleansing requires us to renounce all filthiness and wickedness, and humbly "take to heart" God's word (James 1:21). Purity of heart means acting out of sincerity and genuineness, not pretense (1 Timothy 1:5). And it requires a singular focus: James 4:8 calls on the "double minded" to purify their hearts.

Jesus cautioned, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). Where is your heart? ■

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Chris Brooks	John Baucom	Chris Brooks
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Albert Lee Harrison	Albert Harrison Sr
OPENING PRAYER	Bruce Williams	TBD	
LORD'S SUPPER			
BREAD	Mark Clifton	Mark Clifton	
CUP	Adam Gibson	Adam Gibson	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Adam Wilson		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Singing	J B Williams
CLOSING PRAYER	J B Williams	TBD	Daven Daniel