

## Sabbath School Lesson #4 – The Role of the Bible – 18-24 April 2026

**C**hrist have us speak and act by the word of God. “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). In speaking the word of God, we have the example of Christ, the Head of the church. He said: “I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent Me, He gave Me a commandment what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting; whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto Me, so I speak” (John 12:49-50). Again, He said: “I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things” (John 8:28). And again: “The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of Myself; but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works” (John 14:10). Since even Christ, when on earth as man, did not speak or act by His own authority, it is evident that whoever presumes to speak or act by his own authority is not a follower of Christ. And this is just as true of any body of men as it is of a single individual. The word “heretic” means “one who chooses for himself.” Whoever, therefore, presumes to speak from himself, and to act by his own authority, is a heretic; and when any body, no matter how great in numbers, presumes to choose its own way, regardless of God’s Word, that body is heretical. It may constitute the vast majority, but that makes no difference, since the standard is not man, but Christ and His Word. The work that Christ did by this word was to set at liberty those that were bound. One instance of this is recorded in Luke 13:11-13. Another is found in Luke 5:18-26. There are scores of others, but everything was done by the power of the word of God. Even He came not in His own name, but in the name of the Father (see John 5:43). When Christ spoke to the disciples, saying that whatsoever they should bind or loose on earth should be bound or loosed in heaven, it was not the first time that such power had been given to men. To Jeremiah God said, “See, I have set thee this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant” (Jeremiah 1:10). But how was it? God had said to him, “Behold, I have put My words in thy mouth” (verse 9). He was to speak only what God commanded him (verse 7), to “diminish not a word” (Jeremiah 26:2). It was this word that was to tear down and to build up; for “the Word of God is quick, and powerful.”

**Sunday: The Most Powerful Weapon** – Even when we have an up-and-down and very inconsistent relationship with God, He is wonderfully constant, as Lamentations 3:22-23 tells us. What do you notice in these verses, and how do they compare with our human nature? Trouble may come from every quarter, yet the Lord holds fast to the goodness of God. “But Thou art He that took Me out of the womb; Thou didst make me to hope when I was upon My mother’s breasts. I was cast upon Thee from the womb; Thou art My God from My mother’s belly” (Psalm 22:9-10). Sinners are we, and unworthy to live? Yes; but nevertheless we do live, as it is by the power and grace of God that we have lived to this moment. “It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:32, 23). Why has the Lord allowed us to live all these years, and not simply allowed us to live, but kept us alive? – Because He desired our salvation, for “the longsuffering of our God is salvation” (2 Peter 3:15). He who has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live” (Ezekiel 33:11), has no pleasure in trouble and suffering. If He wished us to perish He would not have kept us alive till this day. He who has kept us thus far, will continue to keep us, and much more, as we recognise His presence and power. The world has a saying, “While there’s life, there’s hope,” but few realise how much it means. Christ is the life; where there is life there is evidence of His presence; and where there is His presence there is eternal hope. All things are possible to him who desires salvation, and who trusts. “Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee” (Psalm 33:22).

**Monday: Scripture, the Authority** – The Bible’s authority and function are clearly declared within its pages. Read and copy out 2 Timothy 3:15–17. Take note of what these verses tell you about the function of the Bible. It was of Old Testament Scriptures that Jesus said: “They are they which testify of Me.” And He said that if the people really believed the

writings of Moses, “they would have believed Me, for he wrote of Me.” Strange that when Christ came, they should persecute and crucify Him whom they had read about all their lives in Scriptures. Paul, who had Himself been one of the persecutors of Jesus, tells the reason why “they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers,” had condemned Jesus, for they know not “the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath day” (Acts 13:27). Paul says they did not understand these “voices of the prophets,” – the Holy Scriptures which God had given to teach them of Jesus and prepare them for His coming, was because “their minds were blinded;” and he tells just what blinded them: “For even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their hearts” (1 Corinthians 3:14-15). How much could you see of anything eyes covered? Yet this is just how many, in the most, of the Jewish people, looked at the scriptures. Their sin and unbelief covered their minds and hearts with a thick veil, so that they could not see Jesus, whose glory was shining forth upon them from Scriptures. “Every word of God is pure; he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar” (Proverbs 30:5-6). Whatever varies from Scriptures, must be wrong. He who adds to his words will be found to be a liar.

**Tuesday: Bible Truth** – If someone were to ask, ‘Is The Bible Truth?’ No Christian ought ever to raise such a question, or to discuss it for a moment when others raise it. It is just as foolish to argue about it as it would be to argue the question whether bread will support life. The only proof is by eating. Give men the Word, let them prove its value by eating it. If they do not believe it, give them some more, and leave it with them, until its power convinces him. He who will for a moment admit that the truthfulness of the Bible is a debatable question, does not know it as he ought to know it, and has no business to attempt to teach others. Let all taste and see – “O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him” (Psalm 34:8). That is the true method of proof. Jeremiah took the proper course, and he found satisfaction. He said, “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart” (Jeremiah 15:16). Go and do thou likewise.

**Wednesday: Bible Claims** – What is David’s advice in Psalm 119:11, and how might you follow it? In the Christian life everything depends upon the Word of God. God keeps us from sinning by His Word. “By the Word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.” “Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.” This is the way that God has appointed, and no other way to have this thing accomplished. Nor is this way appointed merely because he arbitrarily chose that this should be the way, and then laid it upon men that this must be the way that they should go. His Word is the way of salvation and the way of sanctification, because this is the way that the Lord does things: because this is the way that He manifests Himself. It was by His Word that He created all things in the beginning: it is by His Word that He creates men anew; and it will be by His Word that He will re-create this world and all things pertaining to it. “By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.... For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” “Being born again, ... by the Word of God.” “And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.... And He said unto me, It is done.”

**Thursday: State of the Heart** – Our ability to receive instruction from God’s Word (Job 22:22) depends largely on what the state of our heart is like when we come to the Bible. How does 1 Corinthians 2:14 explain this? The Bible was given to men to be understood, and it can be understood. God made no mistake when He dictated His word to the holy men of old. He knew the capabilities of those to whom it was sent, and is sent to-day. The only difficulty in the way of its comprehension is the carnal heart. “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, for they are spiritually discerned.” We need spirituality. The spiritually minded man is a magnet to all spiritual truth. “The Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:10). Having the Spirit, there is no impassible barrier to understand what God has spoken. The inquiry of Philip to the eunuch is an important one for all. “Understandeth thou what thou readeest?” (Acts 8:30). The eunuch was reading a most important statement of truth, but he knew not what it signified till the Spirit of God, through Philip, enlightened his mind. And scripture is read to-day with little or no compression of its spiritual meaning. Truths of vital importance to the spiritual welfare are scanned by the eye, yet not perceived by the heart.