

LIVE BY THE BIBLE

ACCEPT THE BIBLE AS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD
AND MAKE IT THE FINAL AUTHORITY
FOR EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE.

The first in a series of Pastor Keith's Seven Last Sermons

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PASTOR'S TESTIMONY

My parents instilled this into my heart and mind. My parents obeyed the Great Commandment found in Deut. 6. They followed this diligently.

"4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

Influence of Pastors

All of my early pastors re-enforced this by believing the Bible and preaching from it regularly. Not one of them departed from the truth of God's word. They all followed the admonition of Paul to Timothy.

(2 Timothy 4:2-8)

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching

ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables

Ordination Challenge

When I was ordained into the Gospel Ministry in 1954, my pastor and the ordaining council exhorted me to follow the advice God gave Joshua, when he became the leader of Israel following the departure of Moses (Joshua 1:7-9).

7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

II. YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE IN EVERY AREA IN WHICH IT SPEAKS.

A. You can trust the God of the Bible.

There is only one True and Living God and that God is revealed in the Bible. Those of us who have grown up in Christian homes may take

this for granted, but the world in which we live in believes in and worships many (false) gods.

People still worship the sun, the moon, stars and their various positions in the heavens.

Many people still worship animals and creatures.

One of the most popular religions today earth worship, or what some refer to as the new Green Religion.

One of the most seductive false gods in the world today is the worship of Allah. In this pastor's opinion, this will be the one-world religion of the Great Tribulation.

B. You can trust the Jesus of the Bible.

The Jesus in the Bible is the Virgin born, sinless, pre-existent, god-in-the-flesh Savior who died on the cross, rose from the dead, and the only way of salvation.

But you must be careful not to be led astray by the other, new "Jesuses" invented by the cults.

For example: the Mormon Jesus is not the Jesus of the Bible. The Mormon Jesus was a created being, the elder brother of Lucifer; Jesus is one of many other gods;

The Mormon Jesus was not virgin born, but the result of sex between Adam (who became a god) and Mary;

The Mormon Jesus was sinful and imperfect, had to earn his salvation; and was not only married, but was a polygamist.

C. You can trust the History of the Bible.

The Bible not only includes true history, it goes beyond that. In Daniel chapter two, God gives a preview of history from the time of the Babylonian empire until the establishment of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ on this earth.

D. You can trust the Science of the Bible.

We don't have time here (or space) to go into all of the evidence for the accuracy of the Bible. There is mass of good information on this subject available. But, let us state simply that there is no conflict or disagreement with TRUE Science and the Word of The God.

The reason there have been apparent conflicts is that Science is constantly changing. If we tried to harmonize the Bible with the Science of every generation we would have to update the Bible every in every generation.

In Paris, there is a famous museum called the Louvre. In that museum there are three miles of Science books that are totally outmoded. No Scientist living today believes any of the "scientific facts" found in those Science books.

E. You can trust the Morality of the Bible.

The majority of the people living in America attended government schools. The Philosophy of every public school in America is Secular Humanism, which is a philosophy and a religion. The third doctrine of Humanism is that nothing is right or wrong. Morals are relative. Each individual decides for himself/herself what is right and what is wrong for them. This is a lie!

The Bible reveals God's Moral Laws. According to the Bible, some things are right and some things are wrong. Stealing is wrong. Adultery is wrong. Homosexuality is wrong. I beg you to follow the advice of the Psalmist.

(Psalm 119:9-11)

9. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. 10. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. 11. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

F. You can trust the Prophecy of the Bible.

The Bible is the only book in the world that includes true prophecy, but there are many false prophets and false prophecies. Many of these false prophets are so interesting, so intriguing, and so seductive it is easy to be led astray.

I urge you to read the prophecies of the Bible and believe them. In this way you will know what's going on in the world and know how it all will end. The Bible reveals the future for most nations, especially Israel, Iraq, Russia

and her allies. The United States is missing. Do you have any idea why the USA is missing in the prophecies of the last days?

G. You can trust the Promises of the Bible.

Last but not least, I encourage you to read and believe the promises of the Bible.

It is important to mention at this point, that there are good promises to those who obey God and there are (bad) promises to those who disobey God. Read Deuteronomy 28 to get an idea of both.

Live a godly life and claim the good promises that God has made to you. Some of my favorite promises are:

(Psalm 37:4) KJV

“Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desire.”

(Phil. 4:19) KJV

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

(Mal. 3:10) KJV

“10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.”

(Psalm 92:10-15) NLT

“10 But you have made me as strong as a wild bull. How refreshed I am by your power! 11 With my own eyes I have seen the downfall of my enemies; with my own ears I have heard the defeat of my wicked opponents. 12 But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. 13 For they are transplanted into the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. 14 Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green. 15 They will declare, "The LORD is just! He is my rock!

There is nothing but goodness in him!”

(Psalm 112: 2-10)

“ 1 Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD. Yes, happy are those who delight in doing what he commands. 2 Their children will be successful everywhere; an entire generation of godly people will be blessed. 3 They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will never be forgotten. 4 When darkness overtakes the godly, light will come bursting in. They are generous, compassionate, and righteous. 5 All goes well for those who are generous, who lend freely and conduct their business fairly. 6 Such people will not be overcome by evil circumstances. Those who are righteous will be long remembered. 7 They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the LORD to care for them. 8 They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. 9 They give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will never be forgotten. They will have influence and honor. 10 The wicked will be infuriated when they see this. They will grind their teeth in anger; they will slink away, their hopes thwarted.”

(Psalm 128:1-6)

“How happy are those who fear the LORD – all who follow his ways! 2 You will enjoy the fruit of your labor. How happy you will be! How rich your life! 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine, flourishing within your home. And look at all those children! There they sit around your table as vigorous and healthy as young olive trees. 4 That is the LORD's reward for those who fear him. 5 May the LORD continually bless you from Zion. May you see Jerusalem prosper as long as you live. 6 May you live to enjoy your grandchildren. And may Israel have quietness and peace.”

III. MAKE THE BIBLE THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN THE WAY YOU MANAGE YOUR MONEY

Did you know that there are more references in the Bible on money than there are on heaven, hell, or even salvation?

Did you know that one fifth of what Jesus said related to money and the use of it?

Did you know that there 2,300 verses in God's Word related to money. Why are there so many references? They were put there by the Holy Spirit because this subject is important.

In my personal opinion, the way a person handles their money is one of the best indicators of their true spiritual life. We can talk a lot, but the way they work, pay their bills, tithe, save, and give to others, is one of the best indicators of their true relationship with God.

I've been in churches for one-half a century and I have found very few church members actually following Biblical principles and therefore, their finances are not in order.

But let me state briefly that your life is divided into three stages: 1) your learning stage; 2) your earning stage, and 3) your yearning stage. If we don't practice Biblical principles during the second stage (our earning period), we will spend many a sleepless night on a tear-stained pillow.

And don't depend on the government to take care of you. The government is leading us into a financial nightmare. Social Security is a perfect example of government failure.

In 2018, the program will begin paying out more than it takes in.

By 2042, the program will go completely "broke." When that time comes, we face higher taxes, massive new borrowing, or sudden drastic cuts in Social Security benefits. Perhaps a combination of the three.

WHAT DOES YOUR FUTURE HOLD?

It depends on what you did with the knowledge God has given you through His Word. If you have followed Biblical principles we should have no fear of the future.

On the other hand, if you have ignored God's Word, spurned God's advice, rejected the counsel of God's pastors and teachers, you should prepare ourselves for much misery and suffering in old age. Consider this "promise."

(Proverbs 1:24-33)

I called you so often, but you didn't come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. 25. You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered.

26. So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you

27. when calamity overcomes you like a storm, when you are engulfed by trouble, and when anguish and distress overwhelm you.

28 "I will not answer when they cry for help. Even though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me.

29 For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the LORD.

30 They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them.

31 That is why they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way. They must experience the full terror of the path they have chosen.

33 But all who listen to me will live in peace and safety, unafraid of harm."

1. How many believe I have told you the truth today?

2. How many of you agree that we should make the Word of God the final authority in every area of your life?

3. How many of you will follow my advice and accept the Bible as the Word of God and make it the final authority in every area of your life?