

Intro.

- A. Hallmarks chpts. in the Bible:
1. Gen. 1 & Jn. 1 = Creation
 2. Psa. 23 = Comfort
 3. Isa. 52 = Christ's sacrifice
 4. 1 Cor. 13 = Love 1 Cor. 15 = resurrection
 5. Heb. 11 = Faith
- B. What about **Psa. 119**???
1. 150 of its 176 vs. make reference to God's Holy Word.
 2. There are many that profess religion & yet deny the Bible's inspiration & doubt its accuracy.
- C. All proper Bible study begins with respect
1. When folks respect the Bible, then disputes over doctrines & opinions will be diminished.
 2. Success of evangelism & personal development as a Christian depends on a Bible student's respect & confidence for the text of God's Holy Word.

Discuss.**I. RESPECT IT IN THE BEGINNING. Psa. 119:160**

- A. Respect for the Bible is something that must be consistent, beginning to end.
1. Respect for **Gen. 1** includes the rejection of the theory of evolution. (c. **Jn. 1:1-3**)
 2. Respect for law of Moses accepts Jesus & his authority, **1 Cor. 10:2-4; Heb. 3:1-3, 5-6**
- B. Proper respect for Christ includes confidence in both the O. T. & N. T. , **Jn. 10:35, Mt. 5:17f; Jn. 16:13**
1. If Jesus' words can be believed with absolute confidence, then Jonah's whale = true, **Mt. 12:40**
 2. If Heb. writer (**Heb. 11:7**) & Peter can be believed, then Noah's flood = true, **1 Pt. 3:20; 2 Pt. 2:5**

II. RESPECT IT IN ITS ENTIRETY. Psa. 119:128

- A. Bible = right on every subject.
1. It really is not a matter of a "church's official position" on anything, or my opinion.
 2. Whenever the Bible spks. on a subject, that is the end of any controversy.
- B. Some use their pen knife on the scriptures (c. **Jer. 36:23**)
1. Martin Luther on **Jas. 2:24**
 2. Billy Graham on **Mk. 16:16**
 3. Some brethren in fellowship w/ false teachers & their followers (c. **2 Jn. 10**)


[**We need to make the Bible
more relevant .**]

Lean Dog Food –
Nutritious, looks & smells like meat, priced right. *Why couldn't go out & sell mill. \$\$ worth DOGS DON'T LIKE IT!!*

III. RESPECT ITS COUNSEL, Psa. 119:24

- A. In a world of problems & confusion, where do we go for counsel???
1. The offices of Counselors & psychiatrists are full.
 2. Charles J. Sykes wrote A Nation of Victims, (the Decay of Am. Character), 1992.
 3. Often hear that the Bible is irrelevant to modern times, outdated & obsolete.
- B. The Bible's counsel = for every day & age.
1. Although we may travel & communicate faster than our fathers, we cannot outrun their behavior.
 2. We still suffer from heart problems (i.e., we are confused in our thinking).
 3. The *Library of Congress* contains no new sins, or solutions to our sins.

IV. RESPECT IT IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS, Psa. 119:42

- A. All of life's truly great questions are answered in the Bible.
1. Jesus always pointed to the scriptures when questioned. **1 Sam. 21:6; Lev. 24:5**
 - a. **Mt. 12:3** *Have you not read what David did, when he was hungry, and those who were with him?* 
 - b. **Lk. 10:26** *What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?* (**Deut. 6:5 & Lev. 19:18**).
 2. Knowledge of God's word puts you ahead of older men who don't know the book..

3. You don't want your physician answering your medical questions from a car repair manual!
- B. Bible questions deserve Bible answers.
1. Occasionally, class discussions never get to the Bible.
 2. A sincere Bible question deserves a pure, unadulterated answer from the Bible, not just man's opinion.

V. RESPECT IT THOUGH UNPOPULAR, Psa. 119:31

- A. For years, the Bible has been THE BEST SELLER of all other books, but not necessarily most popular.
1. Too many are preoccupied with what the people will accept or what they expect / want. (c. Gal. 1:10)
 2. Paul said, *Preach the word! Be ready in season & out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort,...* 2 Tm. 4:2
 3. In Mt. 15:12, Christ's disciples thought he was being too plain spoken, being afraid he would offend.
- B. Would you believe that some places forbid certain things being taught on:
1. Some pulpits have been muzzled from teaching truth about religious division & false teaching.
 2. There are some that refuse to listen to bible teaching on dancing & immodesty.
 3. Preaching on marriage, divorce & remarriage isn't tolerated some places.
- C. Fortunately, there are still many churches that believe these unpopular subjects **MUST** be addressed in order to proclaim the whole counsel of God (c. Ac. 20:27; 1 Cor. 2:1).

Concl.

- A. Just how much do you respect the Bible?
1. Enough to read it & live by it, obeying God's commands?
 2. Respect it enough to teach it to others, even when truth isn't as popular as error & false hope?
 3. Respect it enough to defend it when it comes under attack from those who have little or no faith?
- B. You have an opportunity to demonstrate the degree of respect you have for the Bible.
1. All who are trying hard to live Christian life show respect by continuing to live faithful to God.
 2. If you are not a Christian, you can show proper respect for God's word.....
 3. If you, as a child of God, have not shown proper respect for the Bible.....