

# **The Bible: From Closed Book – To Open Treasure**

- Disbelief – Faith
- Doubt – Trust
- Fright – godly Fear
- Prejudice – Examination of Facts
- Indifference – Desire to Know and Do
- What the Open Book Says

Good morning!

The lesson is entitled, “**The Bible: From CLOSED Book – To OPEN Treasure**”

It is Important that we study The Book

- Jesus said, “**He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**” ([Jn.12:48](#))
- John said “**I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**” ([Rev.20:12](#))

But to millions, it is a closed book, so they can't be taught.

We Need to Make An Effort to HELP our Friends Rid Hindrances, and Open it.

Many are,

## **I. Closed By Disbelief, But can be Opened by Faith**

The Psalmist said concerning the

### **A. Atheists,**

That “**The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.**” ([Psa.14:1](#))

The Philippian jailer was an **UN**believer—and he was told to believe in [Acts 16:31](#).

Paul “**spoke unto him, the word of the Lord,**” ([Acts 16:32](#))

- so that he **COULD** believe;
- and **BELIEVING**, that same hour of the night, the jailor **WASHED** the stripes of Paul & Silas (that is, he attended to their wounds), which demonstrated **REPENTANCE!**
- Then the Jailor and all his household were baptized straitway. ([Acts 16:33](#))
- And they came again into the house and rejoiced, believing in God.” ([Acts 16:34](#))

The power of the gospel is amazing!

### **B. TRUE science and Genesis are One, and Agree.**

When the Bible touches on science, it is Accurate.

There Are Five things known to Science in Gen 1:1

- Time, Energy, Action, Space, Matter

So Faith is NOT Unreasonable

- “**Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen, were **NOT** made of things which do appear.**” ([Heb.11:3](#))
- “**for we walk by faith, not by sight**” ([2Cor.5:7](#))

Some are,

## II. Closed By Doubt, But can be Opened by Trust

We Can Be Opened By Trusting In,

### A. God's love

- “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” ([2Cor.8:9](#))
- “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” ([2Pet.3:9](#))
- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” ([Jn.3:16](#))

We Can Be Opened By Trusting In,

### B. Christ's Power to Save

- “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” ([Heb.7:25](#))
- “and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” ([Heb.5:9](#))

We Can Be Opened By Trusting In,

### C. God's Help During Times of Temptation and Distress

- “There hath **NOT** temptation **TAKEN** you, but such as is **COMMON** to man: but God is **FAITHFUL**, who will **NOT** suffer you to be tempted **ABOVE** that ye are **ABLE**; but will **WITH** the temptation also make a **WAY** to escape, that ye may be **ABLE** to **BEAR** it.” ([1Cor.10:13](#))
- “**CASTING** all your care **UPON** Him; for He **CARETH** for you.” ([1Pet.5:7](#))
- “Now unto Him that is **ABLE** to **DO** exceeding **ABUNDANTLY** above all that we **ASK** or **THINK**, according to the **POWER** that worketh **IN** us,” ([Eph.3:20](#))

Some are,

### III. Closed By Fright, and Opened by godly Fear

Some are Closed by Fright of,

#### A. Guiltiness

- “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.  
<sup>20</sup> For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.” ([Jn.3:19-20](#))

Some are Closed by Fright of,

#### B. The Future

- “and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
<sup>9</sup> who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;” ([2Thess.1:7-9](#))
- “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” ([Heb.10:31](#))

Yes, some are closed by Fright,

But can be Opened by,

#### C. godly Fear

- “And fear not them which kill the body, but are **NOT** able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” ([Matt.10:28](#))
- “Let us **HEAR** the conclusion of the **WHOLE** matter:  
**FEAR** God, and **KEEP** His commandments:  
for this is the **WHOLE** of man.” ([Ecc.12:13](#))
- “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the **FEAR** of God.” ([2Cor.7:1](#))
- “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us **HAVE** grace, whereby we may **SERVE God** acceptably with **REVERENCE** and godly **FEAR**.” ([Heb.12:28](#))

Some are,

## IV. Closed by Prejudice, But can be Opened by A Fair Examination of Biblical Facts

A. "Ignorance is Sometimes Mistaken for Reason."

B. "Spiritual Prejudice never Saved a soul  
or Settled any question, in light of Truth."

C. "Prejudice is the LOCK on the Door, of a CLOSED Mind."

D. Sadly, Some Will Not Give up Opinions, for Truth

But the Bible says we CAN,

- "KNOW the Truth,  
and the **TRUTH** shall **MAKE** you **FREE**." ([Jn.8:32](#))

**FORGET** "it seems to me...my opinion is...OR...I think..."

We Need to Lift Our Mind To A

- "**THUS SAITH THE LORD**" ([Rom.4:3](#))

Prejudice Will Convince One, That We Can't Understand the Bible Alike?

The Bible says,

- "Wherefore **BE** ye **NOT Unwise**,  
but **UNDERSTANDING** what the **WILL** of the Lord **IS**." ([Eph.5:17](#))

and that takes diligent **STUDY** ([2Tim.2:15](#))

- "**IF** any man **SPEAK**, let him speak **AS** the oracles of God;  
**IF** any man **MINISTER**, let him **DO** it **AS** of the **ABILITY** which **God GIVETH**:  
that **God** in **ALL things** may be **GLORIFIED** through **Jesus Christ**,  
**TO WHOM** be praise and dominion for **EVER** and **EVER**. Amen." ([1Pet.4:11](#))

E. Christians in danger of being Prejudiced:

- CONTROL IT, through corrective Teaching of the Word, Preparation and Prayer

F. The "Difference between Conviction and Prejudice:

- One can explain a conviction without getting angry."

Some are,

## V. **Closed by Indifference, But can be Opened by A Desire to Know and Do God's commandments**

Some are closed by Indifference, with the attitude of,

### A. "No matter -- Just so you are sincere"

- But the Bible says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death." ([Prov.14:12](#))

Some are closed by Indifference, with the attitude of,

### B. "But one church is Just as good as another."

True if thinking of human denominations.

But are religions of men, as good as the Lord's?

- "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the saviour of the body." ([Eph.5:23](#))

Some are closed by Indifference, with the attitude of,

### C. "You go your way, I'll go mine – We'll All get to Heaven."

**But only GOD'S way goes**

- "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." ([Jn.14:6](#))
- "because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." ([Matt.7:14](#))
- "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." ([Matt.7:21](#))

**And God's Way, is so different from human ways**

- "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.  
<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." ([Isa.55:8-9](#))

**We CAN find it**

- "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" ([Matt.7:7](#))
- "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." ([Matt.11:25](#))
- "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." ([Jn.7:17](#))

## D. It is a Tragedy to allow indifference, keep us out of Heaven.

- closed by laziness -- open by energy and urgency.

### "Idleness is the devil's workshop"

- "And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not." ([1Tim.5:13](#))

### Laziness will be Severed from future benefits

- "cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: **THERE** shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ([Matt.25:30](#))

### It's Easy for the slothful one, to make excuses for self

- "The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets." ([Prov.26:13](#))
- "The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason." ([Prov.26:16](#))

### Lazy One's Make Excuses for Bible study:

"Saying they Need the sleep"

- "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for **NOW** is our salvation **NEARER**, than **WHEN** we believed." ([Rom.13:11](#))

### Lazy One's Make Excuses, to Attend Gospel Meetings or Revivals:

"Saying it's Non-essential"

- "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." ([2Pet.3:18](#))

### Lazy One's Make Excuses to Prepare themselves to Teach others:

"Saying they Don't Know the Bible"

- "but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" ([1Pet.3:15](#))

### Some Need to Wake up, to spiritual excitement!

- Jesus said "Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.  
<sup>60</sup> Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.  
<sup>61</sup> And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.  
<sup>62</sup> And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." ([Lk.9:59-62](#))
- "whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." ([Jas.4:14](#))

## VI. When One Finally Opens Their Mind, With The Word of God OPEN, WHAT DOES IT SAY?

### A. All Are Responsible, and Lost in Sin

- “**BEHOLD**, the Lord’s hand is **NOT** shortened, that it cannot save;  
**NEITHER** His ear heavy, that it cannot hear:  
<sup>2</sup> **BUT** your **INIQUITIES** have **SEPARATED** between you and your God,  
and your **SINS** have **HID** His face **FROM** you, that He will **NOT HEAR.**” ([Isa.59:1-2](#))

What Does An Open Bible say?

### B. God the Father Provided a Savior

- “And He shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name **JESUS**:  
for He shall save His people from their sins.” ([Matt.1:21](#))
- “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world,  
and preach the gospel to every creature.” ([Mk.16:15](#))

What Does An Open Bible say?

### C. Obedience Brings Salvation

- “Seeing ye have **PURIFIED** your souls in **OBEYING** the **TRUTH**  
**THROUGH** the Spirit **UNTO** unfeigned **LOVE** of the brethren,  
see that ye **LOVE** one another with a **PURE** heart **FERVENTLY:**” ([1Pet.1:22](#))
- “ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” ([Jn.8:32](#))
- Jesus “became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **OBEY** Him;” ([Heb.5:9](#))
- “ye shall **DIE** in your sins: for **IF** ye **BELIEVE NOT** that **I AM**, ye shall **DIE** in your sins.” ([Jn.8:24](#))
- “**EXCEPT** ye **REPENT**, ye shall all likewise **PERISH.**” ([Lk.13:3](#))
- “as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water:  
and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be **BAPTIZED?**  
<sup>37</sup> And Philip said, **IF** thou **BELIEVEST** with **ALL** thine **HEART**, thou mayest.  
And he answered and said, I **BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ **IS** the Son of God.” ([Acts 8:36-37](#))
- “He that believeth **AND** is baptized shall be **SAVED**;  
**BUT** he that believeth **NOT** shall be **DAMNED.**” ([Mk.16:16](#))
- Jesus “gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity,  
and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” ([Titus 2:14](#))

### IN-CONCLUSION:

Don't let any attitude of mind, make the Bible a **CLOSED** book to you

- “**LET** the Word of Christ **DWELL** in you richly, in all wisdom;” ([Col.3:16a](#))

**OBEY** it to be saved. **LIVE** by it, to be blessed forever. **Ready to begin that enjoyment?**

**Come now, while together we stand and sing.**