

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ecclesiastes 12:6-13.**
- B. It seems people will try anything if it's not the Bible. They will believe some of the wildest notions, stories and tales, but not the truth.
- C. Tonight I want to talk about some of the vain things people try when life presents problems needing answers and then give you what really works.

I. FOUR USELESS ANSWERS.

- A. First, **Escapism** is one useless answer:
 - 1. To escape pain and the reality of pain people run. They run away emotionally and sometimes even run away literally.
 - 2. They run away through alcohol and chemical dependence and refuse to face reality.
 - 3. Car companies, vacation packages even coffee makes "play on" escapism and hope that you will buy their product and be able to escape.
 - 4. But escapism doesn't work because it never tries to solve the problem! One may "escape" for awhile, but when he/she "returns" the problem may not only still be there but be worse than before.
- B. Second, **Cynicism** is another useless answer to life's problems:
 - 1. It is different than escapism in that the cynic faces his problems, but faces it too much.
 - 2. Cynicism brings out one being preoccupied with this problem. They grow dark within. Disillusionment festers into resentment and bitterness. They can even go so far as spending their lives in trying to take revenge.
- C. Third, **Humanism** is a useless answer:
 - 1. These people turn to books written by men, the counsel of someone other than God. They like the ideas of self-help, rationalization, and the horizontal wisdom of man.
 - 2. Each time this will leave people cold and empty; problems are unsolved.
- D. Fourth, **Supernaturalism** is a useless answer:
 - 1. This kind of thing can be mild or maddening.
 - 2. Some turn to mediums, astrology, the occult and superstition. Wanting to find answers from something or someone outside of this world does make some sense, but these answers will not help one cope with pain.

II. THE ANSWER IS THE BIBLE.

- A. The Bible is final authority and speaks to the needs of man. It can solve our problems spiritually, mentally and sometimes physically.
- B. The Bible is the answer over escapism, cynicism, humanism, and supernaturalism:
 - 1. **The Bible is something written.**
Not just a thought opinion or speech, but written for us (Lk. 24:27, 32, 44).
(Lk 24:27) And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
(Lk 24:32) And they said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"
(Lk 24:44) Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
 - 2. **The Bible is something certain.**
No need to be surrounded by a swamp of uncertainty (1Th. 2:13).
And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's

message, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

3. **The Bible is something inspired:**

a. **Revelation** (Eph. 3:4-5).

And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5** which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

b. **Inspiration** (2Tim. 3:16-17).

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

c. **Illumination** (2Pet. 1:19).

And *so* we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

d. **Perspiration** (2Tim 2:15).

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

C. There are only two things on the earth which are eternal; our soul and the word of God. We need to get these two together!

III. **THREE BENEFITS OF THE BIBLE.**

A. **Stability.**

In the midst of the storm the Bible will stand fast (Psa. 119:98).

Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine.

B. **Insight.**

No need to be intimidated by the wisdom of men. With the Bible I know where I came from, who I am, and where I am going (Psa. 119:99).

I have more insight than all my teachers, For Thy testimonies are my meditation.

C. **Maturity.**

This means we go beyond our years. All grow up physically, but some never grow up mentally or spiritually (Psa. 119:100).

I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Thy precepts.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. Four useless answers are **escapism, cynicism, humanism, and supernaturalism.**

B. The Bible is the answer because it is:

1. Something **written.**

2. Something **certain.**

3. Something **inspired.**

C. Three benefits of the Bible are **stability, insight, and maturity.**

D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; for erring Xians.