

## ADVENT 2

### THE COLLECT

**BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



1. For what purpose did our blessed Lord cause the holy Scriptures to be written?
    - A. For our \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Read Romans 15:4)
  2. What (5) things do we beseech the Lord to grant?
    - A. That we may \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures
    - B. That we may \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures
    - C. That we may \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures (notice & understand)
    - D. That we may \_\_\_\_\_ them.
    - E. That we may inwardly \_\_\_\_\_ them.
  3. Why are we thus to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Holy Scriptures?
    - A. We may \_\_\_\_\_ and ever \_\_\_\_\_ the blessed \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Read I Peter 1:3-4)
  4. In Whom has God given us this blessed hope?
    - A. \_\_\_\_\_
- I. WHAT IS THE BIBLE.
1. **Not one, but many Books.**
    - a. *written by different writers*, e.g. prophets, soldiers, kings, laborers, statesmen, fishermen, business men, professional men (see if you can find some examples)
    - b. *written at different times*, over a period of about 1500 years
    - c. *written on different subjects*, e.g. history, poetry, biography, philosophy, letters, etc. (show some examples)
    - d. *ALL the Books have one main object*, God's dealings with men, the way He saves them and helps them through Christ. Christ is the Center (like a lot of pearls held together on one string to make one necklace).

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2. **Our Heavenly Father's Letter.** Suppose a child is coming home from India. His father writes a letter telling him the ship he is to come by, the friends his father has asked to help him, the places at which he joins and leaves the ship. What does the child do with the letter? Put it in the bottom of his box and never look at it? Surely not. He keeps it near him; reads it again and again, that he may not lose his way, and also because he loves to read again and again what his father has written. This is just what the Bible is—our Father's letter of direction, that we may safely reach home. If we love our Father we shall love to read His letters.
3. **A Lantern or Light** (Read Psalm 119:105). Really, Christ is THE LIGHT. The Bible is a light like a lantern, shining because Christ, The Light, is in it. Christians are lights because Christ shines in us and through us.

## II. HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE?

1. **It was inspired by God.** i.e. God put it into the hearts of men to see how God was dealing with men, and the lessons He wanted to teach by the events, and then to tell them to their fellow men. He guided them to tell what He willed, and as He willed, but in their own language, and with their own talents, and then sent it forth as His message to men. (Read 2 Peter 1:21)

*This is like a father who sets his children to write letters for him. Each writes in his own words, but the father's signature makes each letter his own just as though he had dictated every word.*

2. **It was preserved.** God preserved His message to us, through the Jews first and then through the Church.
3. **It was translated.** The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek. It has now been fully translated in over 500 languages, and partially translated in about 2,500 more languages.

## III. WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT?

1. **Reverence it.** A child would not throw about his father's letter, nor make fun of its language.
2. **Read it.** As we should read our father's letter, a little every day.
3. **Remember it.**
4. **Live by it.**



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