

may 6

books of the bible

"all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 tim 3:16

but what if you had to choose, God forbid. here are some of my favorites. i know you must have those that you return to over and over. we are blessed that we can choose. we need to hide as much of it as you can in our hearts.

genesis - "in the beginning..." gen 1:1

one can't get more basic than that. He was the beginning of all that now is. here we learn about man's creation, his ultimate fall, and God's forming of a covenant with a single man who choose not only to believe Him, but to trust Him to accomplish all He promised.

john - "and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."  
john 1:14

the book of john teaches us about the divine nature of Jesus. "I am the bread of life" (john 6:35), "I am the light of the world" (john 8:12), "I am the good shepherd" (john 10:11), "I am the resurrection and the Life" (john 11:25), and "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (john 14:6). He is the great "I AM."

romans - "there is therefore now no condemnation to

those who are in Christ Jesus." rom 8:1

in romans paul masterfully explains God. it shows us what God is like, how He saves us, and how He wants us to live. it shows that now gentiles too may be grafted in to the covenant God established for redemption. and who could ever describe the beauty of all of chapter eight?

psalms - "how precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! how great is the sum of them!" psa 139:17

do you want to learn about prayer, about praise, about worry and joy unspeakable, turn in here. the psalms teach us how to relate to God in all circumstances. perhaps psalms has influenced me most profoundly. The words have become familiar. from the beauty of psa 139 to the consolation of psa 91.

ephesians - "that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish." eph 5:27

ephesians reminds us we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. this book also covers topics helpful for christian living, like unity in the body of Christ, counsel for husbands, wives, and families, as well as how to engage in spiritual warfare so we can stand firm in our faith.

philippians - "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." phil 3:10

philippians makes it plain that there are none worthy - no not one. we are all on a quest; a magnificent quest. to reach our goal of perfection in Christ will not be because we have earned it but because we have discovered the pearl of greatest price and sold all our possessions to obtain it. forgetting those things that lay by the wayside we continually look up and press forward to the high calling.

james - "james, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ." james 1:1

james, the fleshly brother of our Lord. how often i have pondered how difficult it was for him to believe Jesus was the Christ; after all, He's your sibling. but come to the revelation he did, thank God. i remember the practical wisdom james offers. "the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." james 3:17 This short book challenges us to take practical steps towards acting out our faith, instead of just talking about it.

isaiah - "but He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities." isa 53:5

written about 700 years before Christ, isaiah foretells the coming of the Messiah, God's anointed servant. it gives several specific prophecies about Jesus: that he would come from david's line, be born to a virgin, suffer for our transgressions, and rule eternally. this book gives Jesus the names of "wonderful

counselor,” “mighty God,” “everlasting Father,” and  
“Prince of Peace” isa 9:6 isaiah offers powerful  
words of encouragement and comfort, like these: “those  
who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. they  
will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not  
grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” isa 40:31