

Why Should I Study the Bible?

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Psalms 119:1-3 Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways.

My Observation: Many proclaim to know Jesus as their personal savior and claim to be Christians. Fewer and fewer believe the Bible to be relevant and true. Many only believe the parts of the Bible that do not conflict with the sin in their lives. Thus, they pick and choose what parts of the Bible that they believe applies to them. They decide what is right or wrong and they become their own God. **Matthew 7:23**

My HELPS: (found in the back of some Bibles)

Anger - Proverbs 12:16, Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 19:11

Anxiety - Psalms 55:22, Proverbs 16:3

Be Attitudes - Matthew 5:1-12

Body is a Temple - 1 Corinthians 6:19

Cares, worries - 1 Peter 5:7

Clean Heart - Psalm 51:10

Commandments, Greatest - Matt. 22:37-40

Commandments, Ten - Exodus 20:1-17

Conformity, Do not - Romans 12:1-2, John 17:14-16

Courage - Romans 8:35 & 37

Covenant, Current - Leviticus 26:12

Divorce - Mathew 5:32

Dogs - Philippians 3:2

Drinking - Proverbs 20:1, Proverbs 23:7

Encouragement - Luke 1:37

End Times, people - 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Enemy, Treatment - Romans 12:20

Evangelism - Matt. 28:19-20

Faith, Definition of - Hebrews 11:1

Faith, Power of - Matthew 17:20

Fear - Romans 8:31, Matthew 10:28

Fellowship - Acts 2:42

Fruits of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22

Love, Commandment - Matt. 22:37-40

One Mediator - 1 Timothy 2:5

Persecution - John 15:19-19, Matthew 5:11-12

Patience - Hebrews 12:1-3

Perseverance - Hebrews 12:1

Prayer, Model - Luke 11:2-4

Prayer, Lords - Psalms 23:1-6

Purity - Psalms 51:10

Rest - Matthew 11:28-30

Roman Road of Salvation:

Romans 3:10

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:12

Romans 6:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 10:9

Romans 10:13

John 3:16

Saved By Grace Alone - Ephesians 2:8-9

Sexual Relations - Leviticus 18 & 20

Study - 2 Timothy 2:15

Sufficient - 2 Corinthians 3:5

Thankful For You - Philippians 1:3

Wisdom - James 1:5

Weary - Galatians 6:9-10

Worry - Psalm 55:22

My Favorite Passages:

Romans 8:35 & 37 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Psalms 51 - 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. 5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. **10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.** 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. 16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar. (KJV)

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

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**Hebrews 12:1-2** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)

### **END TIMES:**

There are various theories about how and when the rapture (catching away) of the church (the bride), the tribulation period (seven years) and the Day of Judgement (Jesus Return) will occur. I believe the Church (those who believe in the death, burial, and resurrection; and have accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord over their lives) will be raptured prior to the tribulation. The following are some verses that speak about what will transpire prior to and during the tribulation.

Jesus said that in the end there would be wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, diseases, famines. He also said no man knows the day or hour of His return.

**Jesus (signs of the end, season)**– Matthew 24:1-25; Mark 13:1-37; Luke 21:5-38

**Paul (the rapture)** – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 5:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

**Revelation** – This book is largely all about what will happen during and after the tribulation. There is a lot of symbolism used in this book of the Bible.

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**CHURCH** – While going to church will not make you a Christian it can be a good place to learn about being a Christian. Be sure to choose a church that has their preaching and teaching focused on the Bible (not feel good, philosophical fluff). Some churches have lost their focus and turned church gatherings into entertaining social events or feel-good sessions to attract more members. Learning about our God and His desires for us should challenge us to distance ourselves from the sin in our lives and the things of this world (i.e., sex, wealth, looks, toys, partying, etc.). Church attendance and tithing are only a starting point (minimum). Study the Bible and pray every day. This is how to build a relationship with Christ. Use the abundance of God's blessings in your life to help others who are less fortunate. That's the love and compassion He shows us, and we should pass that along to others as we can.

**BIBLE TRANSLATIONS** – There are many translations of the Bible. Some are easier to understand than others due to grammar and word usages that are uncommon in modern times. For me, I like the "King James Version" (KJV) as a starting point. Because the language is so different from how we speak today, it leads me to ponder and consider scripture in ways that I would not if it were absolutely clear. For a clearer understanding I will follow the KJV reading with a "New King James Version" (NKJV) or "New International Version" (NIV). There are errors and sometimes whole verses missing in some new translations. So, I always start with KJV. From there I usually turn to cross references verses (elsewhere in the Bible) and several good commentaries to complete my understanding of a passage. There are resources on the internet that show a comparison of the different Bible translations. These will tell you where there are issues/problems with various translations.

**PREACHING STYLES** – With a text as broad as the Bible, it is easy to single out a verse here and verse there to make a point that was perhaps never made in the Bible. Some preachers use other verses to support or better explain verses in a particular passage. They are essentially taking the congregation to a cross-referenced verse to show consistency in the Bible or explain the original verse a little better. One way to know if a verse is being misused is to put it in context, that is to read several verses before and after the verse to see if it means what the preach says it means. Does the point the pastor makes contradict any other passages? Go back to the Bible and always use verses in context. There are places in the Bible where God instructs His people to kill other people. That was a specific time and act of God. It has nothing to do with what God expects of us today. It would be wrong to use these verses to say God wants us to continue to kill people today. When the church programs, the pastor or ministries consistently take priority over the preaching and teaching of God's word then you may be in the wrong church. Church should be a place for you to learn about Christ and how to have a personal daily relationship with Him.