

Why Should I Read the Bible?

QUESTION:

“Have you read the entire bible from cover to cover?”

ANSWERS:

“I am saved and know the gospel so I should be OK.”

“I have read the most important parts.”

“I have a hard time understanding the bible when I read it.”

“I am really busy but I hope to read it when things settle out a bit.”

“I do a lot of bible studies and have read a lot of good books.”

QUESTION:

"Why should I read the Bible?"

The following Scriptures should answer the question very clearly:

[Psalms 119:105]

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

[Matthew 4:4]

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

[John 6:63]

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

[John 8:31-32]

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

[John 14:23-24]

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

[John 17:17]

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

[Acts 20:32]

"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

[Romans 10:17]

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

[Romans 15:4]

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

[2 Timothy 2:15]

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17]

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

[Hebrews 4:12]

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of

joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

[1 Peter 2:1-3]

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

[Titus 1:9]

- Specifically directed to Bishop = Overseer = Pastor = Elder

- Able to teach 1st Timothy (3:2)

"holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."

- God's Word is alive! The more you expose yourself to it, the more it will expose itself to you.

- To know God better, you must spend time hearing what He has to say. The Bible is His message to you. If you want Him to listen to what you have to say, you should also listen to what He has to say.

- Although God can also speak directly to your heart, you need to know His written Word so you can judge whether God is speaking to you, or the enemy is trying to deceive you.

- God will not love you more because you read the Bible. It's for your benefit -- not required to make God love you. However, without reading the Bible, you will not grow spiritually, and you will be more easily deceived.

- Prayerfully reading the Scriptures yourself is the only real defense against being misled.

- God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Don't you want to know the truth? Why waste your time on lesser, unreliable things?
- Your spiritual life is important. You always have time for what you consider important.
- Jesus taught that God's Word is a seed (Luke 8:11). Plant the seed of God's Word in your life and you will reap blessings.
- The promise of Jesus in John 8:31-32 is for you. If you continue in the Word of God, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free!
- Only those who continue in God's Word come to the place of knowing called faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).