

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

November 6

2022

Why Study The Bible?

Unfortunately, the majority of people today are spending less and less time studying their Bibles. However, it is very important that we all make and take the time to study our Bibles. Why? Well, we should study the Bible because...

The Bible Is The All Inspired Word of God.

The apostle Paul declared, “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...*” (2 Timothy 3:16). You see, God has revealed His will through the Holy Spirit to the various men who wrote the Bible, and the apostle Peter confirmed this fact when he wrote, “*knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*” (2 Peter 1:20-21). Therefore, we should study the Bible because it’s the all inspired word of God, it’s how God communicates with us today, and as Paul said, it’s profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

The Bible Is A Book of Truth.

In Psalm 119:160, the inspired Psalmist while expressing his praise toward God penned, “*The entirety of Your word is truth, and everyone of Your righteous judgments endures forever.*” You see, contrary to what some believe, the Bible (i.e. the all inspired word of God) is a book of truth. Even Jesus Christ, Himself, confirmed this fact, when He while praying to God the Father

concerning His disciples prayed, “*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth*” (John 17:17). So, you see, we should study the Bible because it is not a book of fiction, but rather, it is a book of truth.

The Bible Gives An Understanding of God’s Will.

In Ephesians 5:17, Paul said, “*do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*” Once again, God has revealed His will to us through His word. Therefore, we must diligently study His word in order to understand His will. In Psalm 119:104-105, the Psalmist of old declared, “*Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*” Friends, let’s diligently study the Bible because it is the lamp which guides our paths, and it is the source by which we may gain an understanding of God’s will.

The Bible Contains God’s Plan of Salvation For Mankind.

One more reason for why we should study the Bible is because it contains God’s plan of salvation for mankind. In Romans 1:16, Paul says, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*” My friend, the gospel of Christ is still this very day the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. Therefore, hear the word of God and keep it (Luke 11:28), believe in Jesus Christ (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), confess Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:32), be baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27) for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38), and remain faithful to the Lord unto death (Revelation 2:10).

These are just a few reasons for why we should diligently study the Bible. So, do not neglect studying your Bible, but rather study to show thyself approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15).

✍️ Brad Phillips

The Memory of the Righteous

Proverbs 10:7 reads, “The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.” It neatly sums up what is left of my earthly aspirations. My life is so reduced that the usual distractions don't matter much to me anymore, but my reputation has become even more important.

This is particularly true with respect to my children. Without the direct intervention of God, I will not live long enough to shepherd them to adulthood. I will only be able to help them through their memories and the memories of others. I want them to remember a father who loved God, loved others and died with faith and courage. For decades to come, I want them to encounter people who will speak well of me.

However, every earthly desire brings with it earthly vulnerability, and this is no exception. I can control what my children see of me, but I can't control what they think of me. It may be that in adulthood, they decide that I was misguided or even actively harmful in the things I proclaimed.

My influence over those outside of my household is even less. Faithful commitment to God does not protect me from distortion and slander. I have been attacked because I adhere to the Bible's teaching about the role of women in the church and the practice of homosexuality. Some have not hesitated to accuse me of being bigoted and hateful, even though I detect no animosity toward anyone in myself.

Additionally, God holds me responsible for speaking hard truths not only to outsiders but also to His own. The prophets primarily called Israel and Judah to repentance, not the nations. If I only say the things that I know will be popular and well-received by other Christians, I join the ranks of the false prophets.

This does not require outright false teaching (though it often leads to such), merely a diplomatic silence about sin inside the camp. Indeed, as long as I confine my condemnations to the people who won't be reading them, I will gain a reputation for “telling it like it is”. The

Pharisees had such a reputation, I believe.

Conversely, if I follow those who are scorned and vilified even by God's people, I will find myself in good company. Of course, this begins with the Lord Himself. He was perfect. He literally never did a single thing wrong. However, rather than winning a good reputation for Himself in the Jewish nation, He was rejected and murdered.

Much the same thing happened to the apostle Paul. Even though he served God as faithfully as he knew how, he aroused such hatred among his countrymen that they followed him around, sometimes for hundreds of miles, to slander him further. When the Romans finally killed him, I would imagine that the majority reaction ranged from relief to joy.

Loyalty to God does not ensure a blessed memory on earth. Sometimes it ensures the opposite. However, even if everyone on earth scorns my name, that loyalty guarantees that He will not. If God remembers, it doesn't matter if everyone else forgets.

Matthew Brassford

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

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| Sunday Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Evening Worship | 5:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 p.m. |

Elders

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|----------------------|----------------|
| David Lockhart | (317) 714-6213 |
| David Thomas | (317) 945-8539 |

Evangelist

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| Brad Phillips | (765) 720-2816 |
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