

What is in the Bible for ME?

I have heard about it and read a little of it but wonder... why should I really read more and try to get into it? I mean, it seems so long and hard to understand! How do I know it is right and worth my time to study it?

Is it really all true and accurate?

When I think about people writing something so long ago, how do I know it is all accurate? People make mistakes! And look at how many times it has been translated. Won't errors creep in and mess everything up?

Proverbs 30:5(NIV) *Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*

2 Peter 1:20-21(NIV) *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Looks like God has a plan to assure that His word will come through for all ages in a pure form.

Isn't it too difficult for me to understand?

With all those big words and deep thoughts it likely will be too hard to work to understand and I really don't want to trust someone else to lead me. Now what?

Matthew 19:14(NIV) *Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

1 Corinthians 1:27(NIV) *But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong*

So, if Jesus says that even little children can be part of the "kingdom" then it can't be too difficult. I'm not like a child but do want to know it can be clearly understood by anyone without having to rely on someone else to spell it out for me.

How will it help me with daily living?

Psalms 119:105(NIV) *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

Matthew 7:24(NIV) *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

Having a good light to see where I am going and making sure my life built on a rock-solid foundation sounds really good to me right now - I often feel like I am floundering and being not sure where I am going or even why!

Will it tell me more about God and what He expects of me?

Hebrews 11:6(NIV) *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Romans 10:17(NIV) *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

I get faith by reading the word of God and that faith allows me to learn how to please God. Sounds reasonable!

Is the whole Bible for me, or just parts?

2 Timothy 3:16-17(NIV) *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Now that is what I need. Being fully equipped for every good work! I like helping others, just like I like being helped (at least sometimes).

If all this is true, why are there so many folks that won't listen?

Hebrews 4:12(NIV) *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

That says that the word will reveal everything, the good, the bad, even the thoughts of good or bad. So the folks that don't listen will get left out! Think I want to be one of the readers and listeners!

Where do I start?

There are lots of good reading and study plans available. It all depends on where I want to go and need to learn. Like a road map - need to know where I am and where I want to go and then have a reliable map to know how to get there.

Maybe talking with someone to lay out a plan is a good starting point.

I know I want a better life.

2 Corinthians 5:17(NIV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

I know I need peace in my life!

Philippians 4:7(NIV) *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

I know I want to get saved!

1 John 1:7(NIV) *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

But, how do I know what to read? Where do I start? It just seems overwhelming! Maybe some guidance with a study plan will help.

Start with the basics:

- It is divided into Old Testament (history and law for Jewish people) and New Testament (Jesus fulfilling the prophecies and beginning of Christianity and the church)
- Creation and beginning of man - Genesis
- Story of Jesus - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Beginning of the church - Acts
- Good living plan - James, Romans, Philippians
- Comfort and personal relationship with God - Psalms
- Wisdom in dealing with others - Proverbs

Read and really look for what God might be telling me right now! It is His love letter to me, right where I am right now.

I look forward to getting into it every day with a passion to learn more about God, and more about myself and my relationships with others.

Let me write down a few questions to start with:

We are here to help you!

We would sincerely like the opportunity to talk with you more about this subject and share what God's word says about it. As Jesus said, **John 8:32(NIV)** " *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*"

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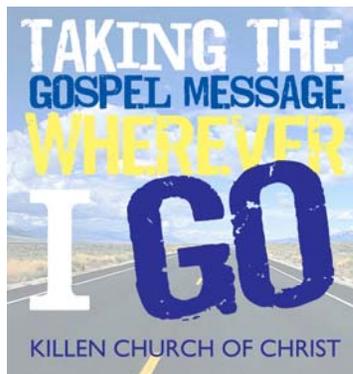
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