

THE BIBLE shows us:

1. Our purpose in life. Eph 1:11 “we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the _____ of him”
2. Our responsibility as husbands, wives, children, & employees. Col 3:19-25
3. Timeless principles of finance, employment, and business.
4. What to expect in the future. The return of Jesus. He is coming back and will reward His faithful followers.

Look up 2 Tim 2:15. God wants you to S_____ His Word

Look up 1 Peter 2:2. Desire the sincere _____ of the word that ye may grow thereby.

You will only grow in your spiritual life to the extent that you read the Bible and study it. The more you study it, the more you will enjoy and desire it.

Many people have their own “ideas” of who God is. All of our ideas about God should start in God’s Word! The only true revelation of God, who He is, and what He desires for us, is found in the Bible. If you would like to know God, then you must study the Word of God.

Look up John 15:7. If ye abide in me and my _____ abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

As you learn some verses of the Bible they will help guide you in your daily life and keep you from temptation. (see Psalm 119:9-11)

Will you make a commitment to read at least one chapter a day? Begin in the Gospel of John. Or read 1 chapter of Psalms everyday. Ask yourself questions as you read it, and write down what you learn!

How do we know the Bible is True?

- F** Fulfilled prophecy - Events prophesied 100s of years before they happened all came true.
- A** Archeology - No discovery has ever contradicted the Bible - only proved it.
- I** Influence - The Bible has had great influence on the world, literature, and laws of the land.
- T** Transformed lives - People have made miraculous changes and commitments as a result of the Bible’s influence on their lives.
- H** Historical facts - All history dates and names agree with the Bible.

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Baptism & The Bible

Lets take a look at Biblical Baptism. Different ideas about Baptism have divided religions, denominations, families and nations throughout the ages. Some religions sprinkle water, some pour water, and some baptize by immersion (going all the way under water). Some religions baptize both adults and babies, while others do not. Many have been killed, excommunicated and disowned because they have been baptized by a method contrary to their family or religious tradition. Although there is much confusion about baptism, there *is* a clear authority from which we can learn exactly what baptism is, and who baptism is for, that authority is the Word of God!

1. Baptism Is a Symbolic Picture

Look up Romans 6:3,4. This passage is not speaking of water baptism but is speaking about what happened to us spiritually when we got saved.

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his _____? 4 Therefore we are _____

with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was _____

_____ from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should

walk in _____

Water baptism is an outward expression of what is taught in these verses. Our old sinful nature DIED with Christ, was BURIED with him, and we were RAISED as new spiritual beings at salvation. Now we are to live in new life. Water baptism pictures all of these things.

Now note, if Baptism is a picture of what happens to a person when they got saved, then Baptism must only be for saved people!

2. Baptism is for Saved People **Look up** Acts 2:41

The Bible says: Then they that _____ his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Some think that because they were baptized as an infant they do not need to be baptized as an adult. But baptism in the Bible always came after someone accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Baptism does not *precede* salvation, nor is it *a part* of salvation.

Some believe that Baptism “washes” away sin. But what does the Bible say washes away our sin? **Look up** 1 John 1:7

..and the _____ Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

It is the blood of Jesus alone that cleanses us from *all* sin. Baptism has no part in our salvation, and always comes after our salvation.

3. Baptism has a Scriptural Procedure

Since Baptism is a picture of your Death, Burial and Resurrection with Christ. Which method of baptism do you think best reflects this? Pouring, sprinkling or immersion? Of course the only way to picture a burial is for someone to be completely covered by water. This is consistent with the Biblical example.

Look up John 3:23 **Q.** Why does the Bible say John was baptizing in Aenon?

Because _____

It is clear that John was not content to baptize by simply sprinkling or pouring water. Instead he waited until he came to a place which had **much** water.

Look up Matt 3:16. This is the account of Jesus’ baptism.

Q. ...when he was baptized, went _____ straightway _____ of the water

The only possible method by which Jesus could have been baptized is by full immersion in water. He went up out of the water, because he was first down under the water!

There is only one Biblical procedure for baptism, and that is by the saved person going fully under the water and back up. This is a proper illustration of Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection, and also a picture of your death to the old sinful nature, and your resurrection to a new life in Christ!

Jesus began his ministry on earth by being baptized, and he ended his ministry by commanding his disciples to baptize those who became saved. For many, being baptized is the first step of obedience in their new life as a Christian.

Would you obey Christ’s command and follow his example by committing to be biblically baptized? Make your decision known this Sunday!

THE BIBLE

The Bible is the word of God. God chose to **use** men to pen his word, but he supernaturally guided them in what they wrote.

2 Peter 1:21 “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”

There are 4 important terms to be familiar with:

1. **Inspiration:** 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “all scripture was given by _____ of God.”

Inspiration means that God (the Holy Spirit) “breathed” the words to holy men. God is the author, and these men were the instruments that he used.

2. **Revelation:** Matthew 11:25 “thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.” God reveals Himself to us through His Word. The Bible is a perfect revelation from God. If we are to learn more about Him, then we must read His word.

3. **Preservation:** Isaiah 40:8 God promised that His word would stand _____. Psalm 12:6,7 teaches us that God will **keep** and **preserve** his word **forever**.

The King James Version is the best Bible for English speaking people. It has been faithfully translated from accurate texts and does not seek to water-down God’s word like many modern translations. Printing Bibles in today’s society has become a great money making industry. The KJV remains the only non-copyrighted translation. It’s texts can be freely distributed, quoted and published without permission from a publisher.

4. **Illumination:** or enlightenment. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Bible (John 16:13). Don’t be discouraged in reading God’s word. Spend time in it, and pray that God will help you to understand it.

The Bible has two divisions:

1. **The Old Testament** (Genesis-Malachi. 66 Books) Gives us the history of Israel.
2. **The New Testament:** (27 books)
 - a. The four Gospels (**Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John**) tell us about Jesus’ life, death, miracles, and His other teachings.
 - b. **Acts** tells us about the church growth and people getting saved.
 - c. **Romans through Jude** are letters about church doctrine.
 - d. **Revelation** is about the return or 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ.