

## Why Should I Pay Attention to the Bible?

The Bible is a very old book. With all the reading material now available, why should one pay attention to the Bible?

First of all, it's not an ordinary book. In fact, the Bible is inspired by God. The apostle Paul said, **"All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"** (2 Timothy 3:16 ESV). The Apostle Peter, who witnessed Jesus' life on earth, His miracles, His death, resurrection, and ascension; listen to what he said about the Bible. He writes, **"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"** (2 Peter 1:20-21 NIV).

It's an amazing book. The history of the Bible, the unity of the Bible, the documented evidence for the Bible that's so unique; also the verifiable prophecies that have been fulfilled in the Scriptures. They all reinforce that this is God's Word; this is His miraculous revelation to us ... something to which we must pay attention.

Paying attention to God's Word, the Bible, isn't a chore. It's actually a delightful blessing. God's Word offers more than anything else the world can offer. Test Him on that. Consider Psalm 119 where it describes the pursuit of God's Word well. It says, **"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth"** (Psalms 119:103 ESV). The Bible is God's gift to us. And looking just two verses later, the writer says to God, **"Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"** (Psalms 119:105 ESV).

As we consider the significance of the Bible, a compelling reason to pay attention to it is because it brings us the absolute truth. In a world of relativism, rumors, and deception, and passing fads, the Bible gives us the trustworthy, solid, enduring, absolute truth of God for our lives. It shows us our sin without pulling any punches. It also shows us our salvation through Jesus Christ, without offering any deception concerning our flawed human condition. It also gives us the remedy for that trouble.

Think about it: A gracious God who came down to us to save us and make us His own. The truth of the Bible shows us this path of life that leads to heaven. That's the primary purpose of the Bible. The Bible is not simply an ordinary book with advice for life. We hear in Hebrews, chapter four: **"The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart"** (Hebrews 4:12 ESV). That tells us that God's Word does something ... it's active in our lives. It affects change and transformation. It gets into your life, renews your heart with the love of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Compare it to Vitamin Water. You're not just drinking water; you're getting some vitamins that help your health and well-being. When you hear or read the Bible, you're not just connected with a book or a story; you're receiving the Spirit of God and a message that saves and sanctifies. It's just as we read in Romans, chapter 10, **"So then, faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ!"**

That's why it's worth paying attention to. God sends His Word to accomplish His purpose in our lives, the most important of which is faith in Him! Another blessing that the Bible brings to our lives is clarity. It instructs us in right and wrong. It teaches us to be men and women of God, people who live with integrity, people who can bless others. The Bible also teaches self-sacrifice. It lifts up care and concern for others. It leads us out of our own egocentric existence and it does so by giving us God's wisdom.

If you haven't read the Bible all that much, I would encourage every one of you to try reading the Bible regularly. Read a little bit every day and see what happens. A good place to start is the Gospel of John. If you want to gain an understanding of the whole Bible and you're just starting out, I would encourage you to find a simple children's Bible and read through the whole thing. You can even do that with your family. Once you see the summary, start reading the details. I know you will be blessed.

Even though the Bible is a very old book, it is a unique book. It gives us God's wisdom but it also shows us our Savior and through that the Holy Spirit works to create and sustain faith. Right now!

That's the View from Here