

Quotes from Famous People about the Bible

“It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.” Mark Twain

“A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.” Theodore Roosevelt

“Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face.” Ronald Reagan

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson
16 Alana Hudson 23 Shannon Hudson
30 Aaron McCollum 30 Margaret Graddon

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

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Oh, for a Copy of the Bible

By Dan Jenkins

To imagine what it would have been like for those who, in the first century, received the books of the New Testament which had just been written and sent to them is beyond comprehension. Before the books were written, there were apostles and prophets who could tell them about Jesus, about His life and the new way of living He revealed. However, they were not always present. Then, for the first time, the churches had a handwritten copy of the Bible, and they could assemble and study together.

Not every person was able to read, so there were those who read these words given by God while others listened, trying to remember every word God had given to them. The Bible describes this. *“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy...”* (Revelation 1:3). Now, for the first time they held in their own hands the message from heaven. That verse adds one other vital truth about the one who is blessed because he has a Bible. It adds, *“and keep those things which are written in it.”* The real blessing is not found in just reading or hearing God’s words. That blessing comes when the words are taken and written in our hearts and manifested in our lives.

What a contrast between the church as it began and that which is part of our world! We no longer have heaven’s message in heavy scrolls but in beautiful, leather-bound books. The widespread use of cell phones allows many of us to carry the entire Bible in a compact device we keep in our pockets and purses. How blessed we are!

Yet what has happened? Across our lands believers assemble, yet Bibles are often not present. We have decided that study in Bible classes is more focused on what some modern man has written

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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about the will of God instead of going to the original truths. Sometimes those studies become a discussion about what each person thinks about a matter instead of searching the words of the Bible to see what God has said about these same issues.

Pulpits are filled with gifted speakers, or those who have read their messages, and for the moment we are fascinated by their ideas, but it is far removed from what happened in the early church. They read the very words given by God, they heard the words given by God and they left worship determined to remember these words to change their lives.

Think about this contrast and then when we open our Bible realize we have the message from heaven. Read the Bible with the joy of those early Christians. Their lives were changed because they realized the treasures which were theirs because finally, they held the words from heaven. Have that same joy because we have our own copy of these words!

Always Continue to Learn

By Bruce Evans

Many of us are voracious readers, opting to shake off the urge to “veg out” watching television or playing video games, to enjoy the joy found in the pages of a book. The passion for reading can usually be traced back to childhood. In the second letter Paul wrote to Timothy, he reminded him of the following. *“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing when you learned them; and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”* (2 Timothy 3:14-15).

Paul noted in the first chapter of 2 Timothy, that Timothy’s grandmother and mother were the ones who first introduced the Scriptures to him, *“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure it is in you as well”* (2 Timothy 1:5). Now as an adult, it was incumbent on Timothy to nurture that seed and grow with respect to knowledge.

Knowledge cannot remain static, it either grows or withers. As seen in Hebrews, chapter five. *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food”* (Hebrews 5:12).

There should exist within every Christian a rapt desire to learn more about our spiritual life. Moreover, it should be a delight to each one as it opens door after door of understanding and awareness. While individual reading and study is worthwhile, there can be additional benefit to be derived by the insight and encouragement offered by others. Think back to “study groups” when in school. Consider those in Berea, who proved themselves to be “noble-minded” as *“they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so”* (Acts 17:11).

“Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation” (1 Peter 2:2). Longing was referred to as *“sehnsucht”* by C.S. Lewis, which is a German word defined as being a yearning or craving. Some psychologists use the word to represent thoughts and feelings about all facets of life that are unfinished. As long as we live, there must be a desire to press ever forward, realizing that in short, we are a work in progress. *“Therefore, leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity...”* (Hebrews 6:1).

Solomon noted, *“The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on folly”* (Proverbs 15:14). Deep within each one, needs to be a burning desire for knowledge. The benefits to be derived are incalculable. *“How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding”* (Proverbs 3:13).

The author of the 111th psalm succinctly wrote, *“Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them.”* (Psalms 111:2) A yearning for learning. It is never too late to develop the ardent love for knowledge. Dust off the Bible that sits on the end table. Open it up and drink in the cornucopia of truth, wisdom and knowledge found therein.