

WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE HOLY BIBLE

- I. CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE.
- A. Christians should Know that the Bible Is Inerrant (having no proven mistakes), Infallible (never wrong) and Preserved by God’s Grace in the English Language, with the Words He Wants Them to Have.
 - B. Christians should Know that the Bible Is Supposed to Be the absolute (final) Authority in every Area of a Believer’s Life (his thoughts, words and actions) (Mat 4:1-4; Gal 4:30a; Mat 22:29).
- II. CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE INSPIRATION AND AVAILABILITY OF THE BIBLE (Its Divine Origin, or Source, and Its Accessibility): 2nd Timothy 3:15-17.
- A. Christians should Know that the Holy Spirit *Inspired* the Old Testament Writers of the Bible (2 Pet 1:19-21; Exo 4:10-12; Jer 36:1-4).
 - B. Christians should Know that the Holy Spirit also *Inspired* the New Testament Writers of the Bible (John 14:23-26; 2 Pet 3:15-16; 1 Cor 14:37).
 - C. Christians should Know that the Copy Timothy Had Available to Him in 2nd Timothy 3:15 and the Copy that the Lord Jesus Christ Read from in Luke 4:16-21 Were not the “Originals.” Nevertheless, They Were still Called “Scriptures.”
 - 1. These copies were also inspired by God and may not have had the exact words that the originals had in them, as in Jeremiah 36:27-32.
 - 2. These copies are sufficient for all that a Christian needs (Luke 4:4).
- III. CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE: Psalm 12:6-7.
- A. Christians should Know that every predicted Detail of the Bible will Happen (be fulfilled) (Mat 5:18).
 - B. Christians should Know that the actual **Words** of the Bible, not just **Thoughts**, Are Preserved according to Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:35.
 - C. Christians should Know that the **Words** of the Bible Were Purified the seventh time in the English Bible (Psa 12:6).

1. Beginning with the Hebrew Old Testament (Rom 3:1-2).
2. Followed by the Aramaic Old Testament.
3. Then the Greek New Testament.
4. After this the Old Syriac, both the Old and New Testaments.
5. Then came the Old Latin, both the Old and New Testaments.
6. Followed by the German, both the Old and New Testaments.
7. Finally with the English, both the Old and New Testaments.

- D. Christians should Know that the Words of the Bible Were also Purified seven Times in the English Language through the major English Translations.
1. Beginning with the Wycliffe Bible in A.D. 1382.
 2. Followed by the Tyndale Bible in A.D. 1525.
 3. Then the Coverdale Bible in A.D. 1535.
 4. After this the Great Bible in A.D. 1539.
 5. Then came the Geneva Bible in A.D. 1560.
 6. Followed by the Bishop's Bible in A.D. 1568.
 7. Finally with the King James Authorized Bible in A.D. 1611.
- E. Christians should Know that God Promised to Preserve His Word (the Bible) forever (Psa 119:89; 1 Pet 1:25).
- F. Christians should Know that God's Words Can Be Kept (John 14:23) because They Have Been Preserved (Psa 12:6-7).
- G. Christians should Know that God's Words Will Outlast the Heaven and the Earth (Mat 24:35; 2 Pet 3:10-12; Rev 21:1).

IV. CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE HEEDING OF THE BIBLE (paying close attention to it): Psalm 119:9-16.

- A. (v.9) They Should **Hear It** Regularly (Luke 11:28; Rom 10:14, 17).
- B. (v.10) They Should **Read It** Systematically (using a set plan) (Deu 17:19; Isa 28:9-10; Acts 17:11; Rev 1:3).
- C. (v.11) They Should **Memorize it** Continually (Psa 40:8; Deu 11:18; Pro 7:1-3; Mat 4:4, 7, 10).
- D. (v.12) They Should **Study It** Consistently (the same way) (2 Tim 2:15; 3:16; Heb 5:12-14; 1 Pet 2:2; Isa 28:9-10).
- E. (v.15) They Should **Meditate On It** Deliberately (with a purpose) (Psa 1:1-3; Josh 1:8-9).

- V. CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE RIGHT APPROACH TO THE BIBLE.
- A. Christians should Approach the Bible (come to the word of God) to Read It as though It Is the Word of God and not just another Book Written by Man (1 Thes 2:13).
 - B. Christians should Approach the Bible without any preconceived Ideas (beliefs formed beforehand) when They Are Going to Read or Study It (Acts 17:11).
 - C. Christians should Approach the Bible with a Willingness to Change Their Position (belief) to Agree with God's Word and not to Change the Word of God so that It Agrees with Their Position (Acts 18:24-28).
 - D. Christians should Approach the Bible and Interpret It (determine its meaning) Literally (as fact) and not Allegorically (as fiction).
 1. The ***Allegorical Method*** of Approach:
 - a. An allegory is a story in which people, things and happenings have another meaning.
 - b. This method is not the right method of interpretation because:
 - 1) The historical or literal sense of statements is sometimes completely ignored and every word and event is made into an allegory to escape the doctrinal problems or to maintain a peculiar view.
 - 2) This method does not really interpret the Bible. The one telling the story becomes the final authority on the interpretation instead of letting the Bible interpret itself (2 Pet 1:19-21; 1 Cor 2:13).
 - 3) This method leaves no way to check to see whether or not the interpretation is correct.
 2. The ***Literal Method*** of Approach:
 - a. This method gives each word the same exact basic meaning it would have in normal, ordinary and customary usage, whether used in writing, speaking or thinking.
 - b. This method is the right method of interpretation because:
 - 1) This method bases interpretation on actual facts and not on assumptions or guesswork (Mat 22:29; Gal 4:30a).
 - 2) This method opens up most of the Bible to the average Christian reader (1 Cor 2:12-14).
 - 3) This method gives the average Christian reader an infallible (never wrong) authority by which to check all interpretations (Acts 17:10-11).
- VI. CHRISTIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE RIGHT DIVISIONS OF THE BIBLE: 2nd Timothy 2:15.

- A. Christians should Know that rightly Dividing the Bible Is Necessary because at different Times God Has Dealt with People in different Ways.
1. God dealt differently with Adam and Eve than He dealt with Moses and the Israelites (the Jews) (cf. Gen 2:15-17 with Exo 20:3-4, 7-8, 12-17).
 2. The method of obtaining (getting) eternal life was different before the death of Jesus Christ from what it was after His death (cf. Mat 19:16-19 with 1 John 5:11-13, 20).
- B. Christians should Know that rightly Dividing the Bible Is Necessary so that a Verse of Scripture Is not Misapplied. The First and Second Comings of Jesus Christ Are sometimes in the very same Sentence and require right Division to Separate Them (cf. Isa 61:1-2 with Luke 4:16-21).
- C. Christians should Know there Are ten main Differences in the Bible that Need to Be “Rightly Divided” when Studying the Word of God.
1. There needs to be a division between the *Old Testament* and the *New Testament* (Heb 9:15-17).
 2. There needs to be a division between the *Jews*, the *Gentiles* and the *Church of God* (the Christians) (1 Cor 10:32).
 3. There needs to be a division between the *First Coming* of Jesus Christ (Mat 2:1-2; John 12:44-47) and the *Second Coming* of Christ (Acts 1:9-11; 2 Tim 4:1; Rev 19:11-15).
 4. There needs to be a division between a Believer’s *Relationship with God* (his standing or position) (contr. Gal 3:26 with John 8:44a) and a Believer’s *Fellowship with God* (his state or condition) (1 John 1:3, 6-7, 9; Pro 28:13).
 5. There needs to be a division between a Believer’s *Water Baptism* (Mat 28:19-20) and a Believer’s *Spirit Baptism* (1 Cor 12:13).
 6. There needs to be a division between the present *Church Age* (Acts 11:25-26; Tit 2:11-13) and the future *Tribulation Period* (Mat 24:1-7, 21, 29-30).
 7. There needs to be a division between the Lord’s coming *for His Saints* at the “Rapture” (1 Thes 4:13-17) and the Lord’s coming *with His Saints* at the Second Advent (His Second Coming) (Jude v.14; Rev 19:11-16).
 8. There needs to be a division between the *Kingdom of God* (Acts 1:1-3; Luke 17:20-21; Rom 14:17) and the *Kingdom of Heaven* (Mat 8:10-12; 26:29; Luke 22:28-30; Acts 1:6-7).
 9. There needs to be a division between the *First Resurrection* and the *Second Resurrection* (Acts 24:14-15; Rev 20:4-14).
 10. There needs to be a division between the *Judgment Seat of Christ* (2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 3:11-15) and the *Great White Throne Judgment* (Rev 20:11-15).