

☞ Back to the Basics: Bible

Happy New Year, and happy new decade! As we enter a new decade I can't help but think about starting out on the right foundation. If you're not a believer, then the proper foundation you need is Jesus Christ. If you are a believer, you already have that foundation and you need to build from there with the proper materials.

☞ Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' **teaching (Bible)** and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to **prayer**.

A Gallup poll conducted some years ago revealed that 60 percent of Americans did not know what "the Holy Trinity" was. Sixty-six percent couldn't say who delivered the Sermon on the Mount, and 79 percent were unable to name a single Old Testament prophet. Some are almost as confused as the little boy who wrote on his test paper that "the epistles were the wives of the apostles, and that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife."

☞ How did we get the Bible? These facts show **the reliability of the Bible...**

1. ☞ **"We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the only infallible guide and rule of our faith and practice."**

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed...

= the Holy Spirit guided those men as they wrote the books of the Bible.

2. ☞ Before the printing press was invented, the Bible was copied by hand. **The Bible was copied very accurately** by special scribes who developed intricate methods of counting words and letters to ensure that no errors had been made.
 - Each column of writing must have between 48 and 60 lines. If three words were written beyond the margin lines, the entire copy was condemned.
 - No word or letter was to be written from memory. The scribe had to have an authentic copy with him and had to read aloud each word before writing it.

- There were special rules for the formation of letters, the space between letters, the type of pen used and the color of the parchment.
 - The manuscript had to be checked within 30 days of its completion. A single mistake would condemn a whole page. If three mistakes were found in a page, the whole manuscript would be condemned.
 - Each word and letter was to be counted; if one letter was omitted or added, or one letter touched another, the manuscript was to be destroyed immediately.
3. There is much evidence that the Bible we have today is remarkably true to the original writings. Of the thousands of copies made by hand, more than 5300 Greek manuscripts from the New Testament alone still exist today. **The text of the Bible is better preserved than the writings of Caesar, Plato, or Aristotle.**

There's more evidence that the Bible is a reliable source than there is for any other book from the ancient world. -Norman Geisler

More reasons to trust the reliability of the Bible:

- ❖ The Bible's unity: 66 books written in different literary styles, by 40 different authors with diverse backgrounds over 1600 years and yet contains **one central message**.
- ❖ **Archaeological evidence vindicates it**: in spite of opposition, 1000's of archaeological finds in the Middle East support the Biblical record.
 - Every reference to an Assyrian King is correct
 - Records of the Hittites were found in modern Turkey; they were previously thought to be an unknown and therefore, made-up nation
- ❖ **Fulfilled prophecies verify it**: The Bible is the only book in the world that has precise, specific predictions that were made 100's of years in advance and that were literally fulfilled.
 - 191 predictions in the Old Testament regarding the coming of Christ
 - Daniel 9:24-26; when you do the math, this passage pinpoints when Jesus would enter human history
- ❖ **The Bible's transforming power validates it**. Millions of people have been dramatically changed by reading and believing the bible.

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.

☞ **How should we respond to the Bible?**

Matthew 4:4

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

The Bible is meant to be bread for our daily use, not just cake for special occasions.

--Christian Johnson... A Bible that's falling apart probably belongs to someone who isn't.

☞ **Every believer needs a daily quiet time.**

Quiet time is the definite time set aside each day for prayer, meditation, and the study of God's Word. It is from the quiet time with God that we derive strength, wisdom, and guidance for each day. Without a daily devotional life, we become spiritually anemic, starved, and easy prey to the devil.

☞ **Colossians 3:16**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another...

Every Christian should own a read Bible.

☞ **James 1:22**

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**

☞ **Joshua 1:8**

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; **meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to **do everything written in it**. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

☞ **We need to apply the Word and put it into practice. How do we apply the Word to our lives? By asking these questions... SPECK**

☞ **S – Is there a sin for me to avoid?**

☞ **P – Is there a promise from God for me to claim?**

☞ **E – Is there an example for me to follow?**

☞ **C – Is there a command for me to obey?**

☞ **K – How can this passage increase my knowledge about God or Jesus Christ?**

God's Word is like a highway sign. You don't have to pay any attention to it if you don't care what happens to you.

I would like a job as tutor, teacher and advisor to your family. I will never take a vacation. I will never be out of humor. I don't drink or smoke. I won't borrow your clothes or raid your refrigerator.

I will be up in the morning as early as anyone in the household and will stay up as late as anyone wishes.

I will help solve any problems your children might have. I will give you the satisfaction of knowing that no question your children ask will go unanswered. For that matter, I will answer any of your own questions on subjects that range from "How we got here?" to "Where are we headed?"

I will help settle bets and differences of opinion. I will give you information that will help you with your job, your family and all of your other interests.

In short, I will give you the knowledge that will insure the continued success of your family.

I am your Bible.

Do I get the job?

☞ **This is our creed: "The Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action."**

Carman – This is my Bible