



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

There are three aspects of primary importance to effective Bible study. First, of course, is to have a Bible. This may seem like an unnecessary statement because Bibles are so commonly available to those of us who live in America. But, there are many in this world today that do not have a Bible available to them, not even a New Testament. We should not only have a Bible, but we should thank God for it and that we have it translated into our own language. We should also pray for those who are working to put God's Word into the hands of those without it through Bible translation and Bible distribution ministries. Without the efforts of those of the past who translated, printed, and distributed Bibles so as many people as possible could have one, we would not have a Bible in English to read and study today. Thank God for raising up such faithful and courageous ministers of God in the past, and pray that He continues to do so in the perilous days that we are living in.

Second, we must read the Bible with the conviction that it is the infallible Word of God. It is His revelation to man and is the only authority we have for what we should believe and how we are to live. It has precedence over any and all churches, synods, councils, denominations, conferences, and boards. This includes popes, bishops, priests, preachers, and mystics as well as traditions, experiences, emotions, personal preferences, and philosophies. The Bible stands alone as God's Word to us.

Third, we must read God's Word with a heart attitude of submission, being willing to yield to the truths we find as we study and learn more of God and His over-abounding love and matchless Grace through His Word.

HOW DO YOU READ?

'Tis one thing, friend, to read the Bible through;
Another thing to read to learn to do.

'Tis one thing, too, to read it with delight;
And quite another thing to read it right.

Some read it with design to learn to read;
But to the subject pay but little heed.
Some read it as their duty once a week;
But no instruction from the Bible seek.

Some read to bring themselves into repute;
By showing others how they can dispute.
While others read because their neighbors do;
To see, how long 'twill take to read it through.

Some read the blessed book, they know not why;
It sometimes happens in the way to lie.
While others read it with uncommon care;
But only to find some contradiction there.

One reads with father's "specks" upon his head;
And sees the things just as his father did.
Another reads through Luther, Wesley, Scott;
And thinks it means exactly what they thought.

Some read it to prove a pre-adapted creed;
Thus understanding little of what they read.
And every passage in the book they bend;
To make it suit that all important end.

Some people read, as I have often thought;
To teach the book, instead of being taught.

How do you read your Bible?

—Author Unknown

Because Christ is Alive!

W. Edward Bedore

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Editor
BBI Bulletin, BABQ

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Tim. 3:16



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QUESTION: I've heard that the Roman Catholics changed the Sabbath from the 7th day to the 1st day of the week. So, where is there a reference in the Bible to the days of the week and the order they are in? Could Monday have been day 1 and so on, with Sunday being day 7? Or have they always been the same as we use them today with Saturday being the true Sabbath because it is the 7th day?

ANSWER: First of all, there are no names given to the days of the week in the Bible. They are simply designated as the first day, the second day, the third day, and so on with the seven days making up a full week. The word "Sabbath" means "desist" or "cease" with the idea of taking a "time out" from regular work. The seventh day of the week was designated the "Sabbath" by the Lord because He ceased from His work of creation on the seventh day (see Gen. 2:1-3 with Ex. 20:8-11). Some have applied the term Sabbath to the first day of the week because the first day has become the normal day of Christian worship on account of Jesus Christ being raised from the dead on the first day. This is a mistake though, as God has declared that "*the seventh day is the Sabbath*" (Ex. 20:10) and there is no place in His Word where He has changed that. The seventh, or the last day of the week that we call Saturday today, is still the Sabbath. The observance of the Sabbath is part of the Mosaic Law, but it is not binding for the Dispensation of Grace that we are living in. Believers are not to depend on Jewish rituals in order to have access to God, but are to rest in their completeness in Jesus Christ (Col. 2:8-10, 13-17). The Lord Jesus Himself is our rest. However, there is precedence for believers to meet together for corporate worship and fellowship on the first day of the week (see Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-20).

Concerning the names of the days of the week as we know them today, they were given to them by the Greek practitioners of the pagan religions. Each was named after a pagan god

based on astrology. The three most prominent are Sunday for the sun; Monday for the moon; and Saturday for Saturn, all of which were (and still are) worshipped by various groups of idolaters who are involved in astrology in some manner. The other days are named after gods represented by planets. Tuesday is connected to Mars; Wednesday to Mercury; Thursday to Jupiter; and Friday to Venus. The spelling of the days of the week as we know them today is the result of their names being adapted to fit the Greek gods as they were known by people of the Latin (Roman), Germanic, and English language groups. For instance, Tuesday was known to the Greeks as *herera Areos* which means "day of Ares." The planet called "Ares" by the Greeks was called Mars by the Romans who referred to the third day as *dies Martis*, "the day of Mars." In Old English it was *tinesdoeg*, or "tin's day." In Middle English it became *tewesday*, which we can recognize today as "Tuesday."

QUESTION: What do you say to people who say, "You can make the Bible say anything you want it to?"

ANSWER: Most of us have heard this or something similar. Of course, it is a false statement because the Bible is a book with a definite message. However, that does not stop people from taking passages of the Bible from their context and forcing a meaning other than the one intended onto them. Passages are often "spiritualized" in the effort to make them say something other than what they actually mean. This is usually done when someone is trying to support an unbiblical doctrine by searching for verses that seem to teach the doctrine when it is isolated from the overall passage it is found in. This is the way of the cults who want to claim Jesus Christ and the Bible as their own while twisting and denying the truths (doctrines) the Bible reveals about Him. This is why it is vitally important that every Bible believing saint should

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have a good understanding of the essential doctrines of Biblical Christianity. Without being grounded in the truth, we cannot adequately share the Gospel of Jesus Christ; we cannot adequately defend the faith against erroneous teachings and we have no adequate protection against falling into error ourselves when false teachings (doctrines) are put before us.

Another problem is the seeming errors that are found in the Bible. How can we answer the unbeliever who claims that the Bible is full of contradictions and points us to passages such as Matthew 6:14-15 where the Lord Jesus tells His disciples that the Heavenly Father will not forgive them unless they forgive others, and then Ephesians 4:32 where the Church is told to forgive one another because God the Father has already forgiven us in Christ. Which is true? Are we to forgive to be forgiven? Or, are we to forgive because we have been forgiven? The only way an adequate answer to this **seemingly** unanswerable contradiction (and many more are found in the Bible) can be given is by understanding the dispensational nature of the Scriptures and recognize the distinctions between Prophecy and Mystery that are found in the Word of God. This is the truth that stands behind the Apostle Paul's instructions to Timothy to *"study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth"* (II Tim. 2:15).

Studying the Bible "rightly divided" helps to clear up the seeming contradictions found in Scripture and protects against the false teachings that result from not rightly dividing the Word of God. Bible study should be a life-long endeavor for every believer. The more we learn about God and His Word, the more we will learn to love and appreciate the Lord Jesus Christ and all that we have been given in Him. Being grounded in sound doctrine is important to living the Christian life and serving the Lord in all that we do.

If you have questions about the differences between Prophecy and Mystery as they relate to the Bible and what it means to "rightly divide" God's Word, we would like to help you. Let us know and we would be glad to send you information on what it means to rightly divide the Word of Truth. It is a simple principle of Bible study. It will help anyone, who is serious, learn to study, understand, and enjoy their Bible for themselves. To be like the Bereans who didn't reject the Gospel of Grace when Paul came to them like those at Thessalonica did, but *"searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so"* (Acts 17:11). We invite you to be a Berean.

INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

"Bible Copies"

While none of the original documents produced by the Bible's human authors are in existence today, God has preserved His Word for us in a multitude of copies that were made of them. The oldest from the New Testament that has been discovered is a fragment of the Gospel Record of John (John 18:31-33, 37-38) that dates back to around A.D. 125. It was found in Egypt in the 1920's and is now in a museum in England. The oldest known Old Testament fragment (Num. 6:24-26) is dated to between 600 and 700 B.C. It was found near Jerusalem in 1979 during the excavation of a tomb.

"Bible Translations"

As the early church spread among the various people groups of the Middle East, the need for making the Scriptures available in the people's native languages grew. This resulted in the New Testament being translated from the original Greek into Armenian, Coptic, Ethiopic, Latin, Slavonic, Syriac, and numerous other languages. Some existing copies of these translations date back to between A.D. 400 and 600.



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SOME COMMON SAYINGS TAKEN FROM THE BIBLE

“What God Hath Joined Together”

Traditionally the words *“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”* (Mk. 10:9) are used in marriage ceremonies. In this verse, the Lord Jesus was teaching on the fact that God meant marriage to be a permanent institution.

“We Reap What We Sow”

This phrase, which comes from the Bible book of Galatians, is a common part of our language and thinking. In commenting on how believers should use their resources in regard to supporting the Gospel ministry, Paul wrote, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap”* (Gal. 6:7). Its meaning, that what we do has consequences, is so clear it hardly needs explanation. While Paul was referring to the difference of investing in spiritual (eternal and heavenly) and fleshly (temporal and earthly) things (see Gal. 6:8), the principle of the saying is unchanging and universal in application. While it is applied in a variety of contexts, it is commonly used in pretty much the way Paul did.

“A Little Wine for the Stomach”

This saying comes from the Apostle Paul’s advice to Timothy to *“drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine often infirmities”* (I Tim. 5:23). As a saying, it is often used in jest and/or as an excuse for drunkenness. Paul was not advocating the use

of alcohol as a recreational drug as is common in American culture today. Obviously, from the context, Paul only had a medicinal use in mind, which was common in those days. With the pure water and highly effective and available medicines of today, this verse gives no validity to the claim to the contrary by those who use it as an excuse for their indulgence in strong drink. Alcohol is the most widely used drug in America and it often results in physical harm, medical issues, and destroyed relationships. And, for believers, it also ruins their testimony for the Lord.

“God Helps Those Who Help Themselves”

Even though many people believe that this often quoted saying is from the Bible, it is not. Although it was made famous by John F. Kennedy in one of his speeches, the words originally came from another famous American, Benjamin Franklin. It is sometimes used today as an excuse for unethical behavior in obtaining wealth, position, recognition, etc.

“Jehu”

Although it is not used much today, the name of this Israelite king was used in the past to denote a *“furious”* or *“reckless”* driver, especially coachmen in the days before automobiles. Jehu was so noted for how he drove his chariot that the watchman on the watchtower in Jezreel recognized him from afar because *“he driveth furiously”* as he led his army toward the city (II Kings 9:16-17,20).

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