

The welcome verse for this week is Isaiah 40:8, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”



Biblically Serious
Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
Hebrews 4:12-14

The Bottom Line: We choose to live and function under the authority and instruction of holy scripture for God’s glory and our joy.

Introduction:

One of the large issues for Christians across America is the secular society’s lack of respect for the scriptures.

Then you start to read statistics like these...

- 50% of American Christian adults read their Bible less than twice a year (including *never*).
- 82% of American Christians only read their Bibles on Sunday while in church.
- 1 out of 4 American Christian adults believe the Bible is written by mere men and is not the “word of God” at all.

We thought secularized Americans threw out their Bibles, but it was actually the church.

Tension:

American Christians respect the Bible, but they do not read the Bible.

We sew God’s word into our couch pillows but not to our hearts. We position God’s word on our coffee table but not in our mind. This has caused an epidemic called *biblical illiteracy*.

Are we actually shocked at the state of unbelievers and their feelings concerning scripture when we consider the state of the church?

Truth

Christians must start prioritizing engaging scripture as a regular discipline in their discipleship to Jesus.

When we engage scripture, we must understand it properly. Avoid these popular approaches:

1. The Xanax Approach: Taking scripture at random for specific needs (e.g., Philippians 4:6-7 for anxiety; Psalm 139 for bad hair days)
2. The Pinpoint Approach: Opening the Bible to a random passage and trying to apply frivolously
3. The Magic 8-Ball Approach: Using scripture out-of-context to make your decisions for you

The problem with these approaches is that they reveal a greater problem in how American Christians think about the Bible – The Bible is predominantly about me and not predominantly about God.

The scriptures are written *about* God, *for* us.

The scriptures reveal God’s character, nature, and instruction. This should not just serve us for information, but for transformation.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Application & Conclusion:

Commit yourself to a better understanding of God’s word this year. Use the CIA approach (Comprehension/Interpretation/Application). Ask the Holy Spirit to make God’s word alive and active in your own heart, soul, mind, and strength (Hebrews 4:12). Be transformed, renewed, and sanctified by the work of God through the revelation of the word of God.

Discussion questions for group this week:

- 1. What does this teach me about God?**
- 2. What does this teach me about me?**
- 3. How do I apply this to my life?**
- 4. If I could ask a question about this it would be....**