

Do We Really Need the Bible?

The Bible is consistently a “best seller.” It is loved in life and cherished in death. Notwithstanding the fact that the Bible has been more viciously attacked than any other book in existence, it has stood the test of time. Satan took issue with the word of God while the first couple were still in the garden, Gen. 2:17; 3:4. King Jehoiakim took a pen knife and cut out portions of the message God revealed unto the prophet Jeremiah, Jer. 36:21-23. The apostles were forbidden to speak or teach in the name of Jesus, Acts 4:18-20. The apostate church, for a long time, discouraged the translation of the Bible into the common language of the people. For example, John Wycliffe, around 1380 A.D., translated the New Testament into English. And for this “heresy” he was posthumously condemned by Arundel the archbishop of Canterbury. By the Council’s decree, “Wycliffe’s bones were exhumed and publicly burned and the ashes were thrown into the Swift River.” William Tyndale, in 1536, translated the Bible into English, and for this he was burned at the stake. Yes, princes, councils, politicians, philosophers, etc., have tried in vain to destroy the Bible. Of course, Bible students and Bible believers are not surprised at man’s inability to destroy the Bible, for Jesus plainly said that “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away,*” Matt. 24:35. And the Apostle Peter described it as “*the word of God which lives and abides forever,*” I Peter 1:23.

However, as it relates to this article, the question is not “how long will the Bible last,” but we are posing the question “**do we really need the Bible?**” Perhaps, to the surprise of some, our first answer to that question is “No!”

No, We Don’t Really Need the Bible

If:

1. If it doesn’t make any difference what a person believes, so long as he is sincere.

A person can sincerely believe the Book of Mormon; a person can sincerely believe the Koran; a person can sincerely believe the Catholic Catechism—all of which are books which contradict the Bible. Of course, we would point out that Jesus believed it does make a difference in what we believe, for He said “*you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,*” John 8:32. And He strongly rebuked the Pharisees for having “*made the commandment of God of no effect*” by their “*tradition,*” Matt. 15:7. However, notwithstanding what Jesus said, and believed, if it really makes no difference what one believes so long as he is sincere, then we don’t really need the Bible.

2. If one church is as good as another! We continually hear it said that “one church is as good as another,” that “it makes no difference what church one is a member of,” etc. However, the church Jesus built (Matt. 16:18) existed in “*the eternal purpose*” of God, Eph. 3:8; in it both Jews and Gentiles are reconciled unto God, Eph. 2:16, and it is the “*one body*” of which Jesus is the “*Savior,*” Eph. 5:23, and for which He “*gave Himself,*” Eph. 5:25.

3. If Calvinism is true. Much of the religious world has embraced the tenets of John Calvin, which consist of five main points: (a) Infants, at birth, are totally depraved, having inherited the sin of Adam. (b) God’s election is “unconditional.” © Limited atonement. (d) Irresistible grace, and (e) The perseverance of saints. When people accept the consequences of this doctrine they reason like this: Inasmuch as people are born totally depraved, then they are incapable of having any good thought on their own. Hence, if they are to be saved, it will be because of the “unconditional election” of God. However, if God unconditionally elected to save some, while rejecting others, then the atonement necessarily has to be “limited” to those whom God “unconditionally” elects to save. But if they are “unconditionally” elected to salvation, then it has to be based upon the “irresistible grace” of God. But if all of this be true, then the ones

whom God “unconditionally” elected to save, and therefore are the recipients of God’s “irresistible grace,” once saved, cannot be lost. Of course, this whole theory is based upon the false premise that sin is inherited, or that infants are born totally depraved. However, the Bible plainly states that *“the son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son..,”* Ezek. 18:20. And, concerning “little children,” Jesus said *“of such is the kingdom of heaven,”* Matt. 19:14.

Yes, We Do Really Need the Bible

If:

1. If faith is essential to salvation. And it is, for scripture says *“without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him,”* Heb. 11:6. And Jesus said *“If you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins,”* John 8:24. Yes, to go to heaven, we must believe. But what produces faith? According to the Bible, *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,”* Rom. 10:17.

2. If One has to do the will of God to be saved. I recognize that multitudes deny the necessity of obedience. In fact, some claim to be Universalists, and thus affirm that all people everywhere (including atheists and all who are immoral) will go to heaven, and that they could not be lost even if they tried to go to hell! However, the fact remains that God has always required obedience on the part of man. Adam and Eve were driven from the garden because they disobeyed God, Genesis 3. All the children of Israel, from 20 years old and above (except Joshua and Caleb) died in the wilderness, and it was *“because they obeyed not the voice of the Lord,”* Josh 5:6; Num. 14:29. Jesus expressed it this way: *“Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven,”* Matt. 7:21.

3. If the blood of Christ is necessary to salvation. According to the scriptures, *“without shedding of blood there is no remission,”* Heb. 9:22. However, it was *“not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins,”* Heb. 10:4. Hence, Jesus shed His Own blood, and He did it *“for the remission of sins,”* Matt. 26:28, and the Bible plainly states that it is “in” Christ that *“we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace,”* Eph. 1:7. It is more than just a coincidence that Jesus shed His blood *“for the remission of sins,”* Matt. 16:28, and that baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is *“for the remissions of sins,”* Acts 2:38. The connection is obvious when we realize that Jesus shed His blood in his death, John 19:34, and through baptism we contact the death of Jesus, Rom. 6:3-4.

4. If reconciliation unto God is necessary to salvation. Please consider man’s plight: (1) *“All have sinned,”* Rom. 3:23; (2) *“the wages of sin is death,”* Rom. 6:23, and (3) sin separates man from God, Isa. 5:1-2. Hence, to be saved one must deal with the sin problem in his life. He must be *“reconciled to God,”* Rom. 5:10, and reconciliation is found in the *“one body,”* Eph. 2:16, which is the church, Eph. 1:22-23, which was *“purchased”* by the blood of Jesus Christ, Acts 20:28.. But where do we learn about reconciliation and the need to be reconciled unto God? From the Bible!

5. If it makes a difference how we live our lives. According to the Bible, *“the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God,”* I Cor. 6:11. We must *“live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,”* Tit. 2:14. We must *“cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God,”* 2 Cor. 7:1. Yes, it does make a difference as to how we live our lives. But where do we obtain the instructions with regards to how we should live our lives. From the Bible!

Conclusion: Yes, we do “really need the Bible!” For all the reasons just cited, and many more. The Bible is the most authenticated book from all antiquity. Both internal and external

evidences prove conclusively that it is indeed the word of God; it was given “*by inspiration of God*,” 2 Tim. 3:16; it will be the standard by which we will be judged in that last day,” John 12:48. Read it to be wise. Live by it to be happy in this life. Obey it to be saved!
—Bobby Witherington