

## Why You Should Treasure, Read & Follow the Bible

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by Bill Crews

All that there is to know about the nature and character of God and about the will of God for man is contained and revealed in the Bible. Anyone who is willing to pay the price of diligent and continual reading and study can come to know all that he needs to know to be pleasing to God, to live as he ought (which will promote his welfare and happiness), and to reach heaven after his life on earth. Let me emphasize these truths:

1. **The Bible is the inspired word of God.** The writers professed that they were writing the words of God by the Spirit of God (Exodus 24:4; Leviticus 27:34; Numbers 33:2; 36:13; Joshua 24:26; 1 Corinthians 14:37; etc.). *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God being moved by the Holy Spirit”* (2 Peter 1:20-21).
2. **The Bible is the revelation of God’s will to man.** *“He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God”* (Micah 6:8). *“This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13; compare Acts 10:34-35). *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven”* (Matthew 7:21).
3. **The Bible contains all of the will of God** (not part of it). Jesus promised the apostles all the truth (John 16:13). They received *“all things pertaining to life and godliness”* (2 Peter 1:3). The scriptures (both those of the old testament and those of the new testament are referred to in the context) are able to make *“the man of God complete”* and to equip him completely unto every good work (2 Timothy 3:14-17).
4. **The Bible is authoritative and binding.** This is why adding to and taking from are forbidden both in the old testament (Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 12:32) and in the new testament (Revelation 22:18-19). The anathema of God will fall upon anyone who preaches another gospel than that set forth in the New Testament (Galatians 1:6-9). The gospel that Paul preached was not received from men nor was he taught it, but it came to him through revelation of Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:11-12).
5. **The Bible is eternal.** Nothing has been lost; it still contains all of God’s will for man. Even though the heavens and the earth are to pass away, Jesus assured us that His words will not pass away (Matthew 24:35). The apostle Peter assured us that the word of God lives and abides, in fact he assured us that the word of the Lord, which he identified as *“the word of the gospel which was preached unto you,”* abides forever (1 Peter 1:23-25).
6. **The Bible is understandable.** We are called upon to understand it. *“Wherefore be ye not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is”* (Ephesians 5:17). Paul, in fact, declared to the saints at Ephesus of the things he had written in the epistle to them, *“whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ”* (Ephesians 3:1-5). *Unbelief* is condemned by the Lord (Mark 16:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; Revelation 21:8). *Disobedience* is condemned by the Lord (Luke 6:46; Romans 2:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). God is a righteous God (Acts 17:31), but he would not be righteous in condemning man for not believing what man cannot understand or for not obeying what man cannot understand. Was God able to reveal His will to man in words that man can understand? Did He reveal His will to man in words that man can understand? Does God want man to understand His will? If the answers are *“yes,”* the conclusion should be obvious.

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