

## What Is The Bible?

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by Bill Crews

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**4. What is the purpose of the Bible?** The purpose of the Bible is to bring men (the creatures made in God's image) into a right relationship with God (the Creator). Romans 3:23 declares of Jews and Gentiles, *"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."* And sin separates men from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). The purpose of the Bible is to help men fulfill their purpose in life — to be faithful to their whole duty, to glorify God. *"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). *"... , or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The purpose of the Bible is to promote the happiness and welfare of men. God does not wish us to be miserable and unhappy. *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice"* (Philippians 4:4). *"Casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you"* (1 Peter 5:7).

The purpose of the Bible is to bring us salvation, to offer us forgiveness of our sins here and the hope of eternal life hereafter. *"For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost"* (Luke 19:10). *"... It came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"* (John 10:10).

The purpose of the Bible is to teach us what is right; to show us how to live; to provide us with everything we need to know, to believe, and to do in the realm of religious or spiritual matters. *"Seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue"* (2 Peter 1:3). Jesus promised the apostles **all the truth** (John 16:13); they received **all the truth** (2 Peter 1:3); they preached **all the truth** (Acts 20:26-27); they wrote or recorded **all the truth** (2 Timothy 3:14-17); the providence of God preserved **all the truth** (1 Peter 1:23-25).

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