



WE ARE

THAT

KIND OF CHURCH

8 Essentials For Every Church God Blesses, Satan Hates, and the World Needs



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BIBLE

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They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

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5 BIG QUESTIONS WE MUST ASK ABOUT THE BIBLE

Q1: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

Q2: IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

Q3: IS THE BIBLE GOOD?

Q4: WHY SHOULD I DAILY ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE?

Q5: HOW CAN I BEST ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE?

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Q: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

A: The Bible is God's inspired and authoritative revelation to humanity about who He is, who we are, and how we are to live.

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Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21

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Over a 1,600 year time period,
using multiple genres,
40 diverse authors,
in various locations on three continents,
the Bible tells one unified story,
the story of God!

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THE BIBLE

- The word "Bible" literally means books or library of books
- Bible Genres: history, poetry, story, wisdom, songs, prophecy, letters
- 66 books (OT = 39, NT = 27, divided by 400 years)
- 40 different authors from three different continents
- Authors: Shepherds, poets, soldiers, scholars, servants, tax collectors, fishermen, entrepreneurs, and kings
- Writing Locations: hillsides, in the wilderness, cities, dungeons, palaces, on the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe

THE BIBLE

- Dead Sea Scrolls:
- 1946 - Oldest copy of Old Testament dated 900 AD
- 1947 - 223 new Old Testament manuscripts dating from 125 BC
- Newly discovered manuscripts match ancient manuscripts by 95%
- The Bible is the most popular book of all time
- The Hunger Games - 50 million copies
- The Lord of the Rings - 150 million
- 4 billion Bibles distributed (100 million per year)

OLD TESTAMENT (39 books)

- Written between 1400-400 BC
- Languages: Hebrew and Aramaic on papyrus or leather
- Christians believe the Old Testament is inspired because Jesus believed it, quoted it, used it, and the New Testament writers authenticated its inspiration. (Luke 4:1-11, 24:26-44, 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- The Old Testament is believed to have been canonized by 200 AD

NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)

- Written between 50-90 AD by eyewitnesses and those who interviewed eyewitnesses
- Language: Koine Greek (vulgar, common language)
- Focuses on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the beginning of The Way, and the churches of Greece, Italy and Asia Minor
- The gospels and letters circulated amongst the Christian churches immediately throughout the 1st and 2nd centuries
- The New Testament was canonized in 397 AD at The Council of Carthage, which was overseen by Saint Augustine, the North African Church Father and Theologian

“When I hold a Bible in my hands, I'm holding a book that's been banned, burned, and banished more than any text in history; yet it's still the world's best-seller. When I proclaim the cross, I'm upholding a symbol that heralded the death of the best person in history, yet has the power to transform the hardest heart. When I go to church on Sunday, I'm identifying with a group of people persecuted mercilessly, yet still sweeping the world, doing good, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and providing hope to the hopeless.”

- Kevin Belmonte,
Christianity's Uncooperative Corpse, HuffPost

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Q: IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

**A: Yes. Historical, Scientific, Mathematic, and Prophetic Evidence
Validates the Reliability and Trustworthiness of the Bible.**

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IS THE
OLD TESTAMENT
RELIABLE?

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"Of the hundreds of thousands of artifacts found by other archaeologists, not one has ever been discovered that contradicts or denies one word, phrase, clause, or sentence of the Bible, but always confirms and verifies the facts of the Biblical record."

- Dr. J.O. Kinnaman,
Biblical Archeologist

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"The Bible contains 2,500 prophecies and 2,000 of them have already been fulfilled. The odds for all these prophecies having been fulfilled by chance without error is less than one in $10^{2,000}$ (that is 1 with 2,000 zeros written after it)!"

- Dr. Hugh Ross,
Astrophysicist and Apologist with Reasons to Believe

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JESUS FULFILLED OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE PROPHECIES

- **2100 BC** - The Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10).
- **1050 BC** - Jesus would be a descendant of King David (2 Samuel 7:16).
- **1000 BC** - Jesus is the begotten son of God from eternity (Psalm 2:7).
- **700 BC** - Jesus would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).

In approximately 750 BC, the prophet Micah named the tiny village of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Israel's Messiah.

Jesus was born around 7-4 BC in Bethlehem, making the fulfillment of this prophecy one of the most widely known and widely celebrated facts in history.

Sources: Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1

Some 400 years before crucifixion was invented, both Israel's King David and the prophet Zechariah described the Messiah's death in words that perfectly depict that mode of execution. Further, they said his body would be pierced and that none of His bones would be broken, contrary to customary procedure in cases of crucifixion.

Sources: Psalm 22, 34:20; Zechariah 12:10

Historians and New Testament writers confirm that Jesus of Nazareth died on a Roman cross, and his extraordinarily quick death eliminated the need for the usual breaking of bones. A spear was thrust into his side to verify that he was, indeed, dead.

Sources: John 19:31-34; Josephus (93 AD); Tacitus (116 AD)



IS THE
NEW TESTAMENT
RELIABLE?

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3 REASONS WE CAN TRUST THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS INCLUDED EMBARRASSING DETAILS ABOUT THEMSELVES

- They fell asleep when Jesus needed them most (Mark 14:32-41)
- Some are confused and doubt before and after resurrection (Matthew 28:17)
- Peter was called "Satan" by Jesus and was one of Mark's sources (Mark 8:33)

3 REASONS WE CAN TRUST THE NEW TESTAMENT

2. THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS INCLUDED EVENTS RELATED TO THE RESURRECTION THEY WOULD NOT HAVE INVENTED.

- Mary Magdalene (female, cured of evil spirits) first to see Jesus (Luke 8:2)
- The disciples were afraid and Thomas doubted Jesus rose (John 20:19-23)

3 REASONS WE CAN TRUST THE NEW TESTAMENT

3. THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS ABANDONED THEIR LONG-HELD SACRED BELIEFS, ADOPTED NEW ONES, AND DID NOT DENY THEIR TESTIMONY UNDER PERSECUTION OR THREAT OF DEATH.

- Disciples worshiped Jesus as God (Matthew 14:33)
- Peter was crucified, Jesus' brother James was stoned to death, Paul was beheaded
- 11 disciples martyred and John was boiled in oil then exiled to Patmos

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Q: IS THE BIBLE GOOD?

A: Yes. When People Rightly Interpret and Rightly Apply the Bible, the Impoverished, Suffering Individuals and Communities, Women, Children, and Slaves Have Been Freed from Oppression and Their Lives Have Improved.

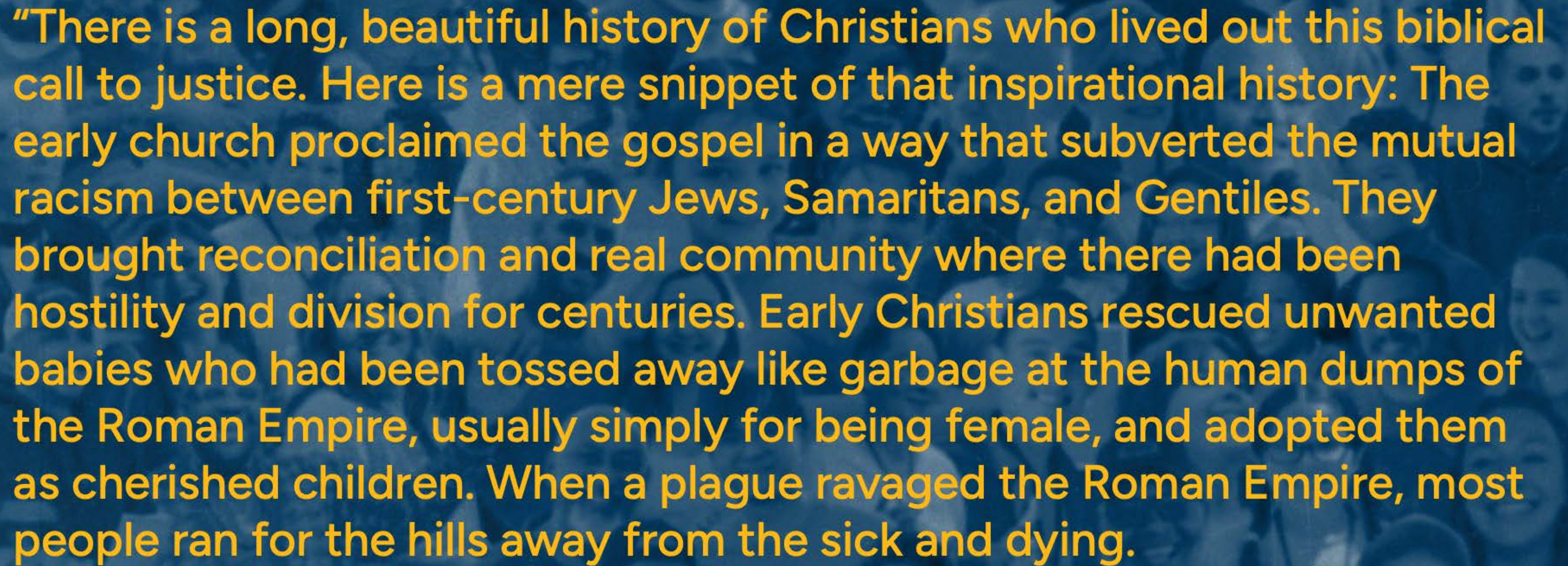
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“The Bible is not only a historical book but also a history-making book.”

- Jason Jimenez,
Apologist with Stand to Reason

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“There is a long, beautiful history of Christians who lived out this biblical call to justice. Here is a mere snippet of that inspirational history: The early church proclaimed the gospel in a way that subverted the mutual racism between first-century Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles. They brought reconciliation and real community where there had been hostility and division for centuries. Early Christians rescued unwanted babies who had been tossed away like garbage at the human dumps of the Roman Empire, usually simply for being female, and adopted them as cherished children. When a plague ravaged the Roman Empire, most people ran for the hills away from the sick and dying.

It was countercultural Christians who ran to the bedsides of the plagued to treat them with dignity, getting sick and dying right along with them. Christians built more hospitals and orphanages to serve the suffering than any other movement in history. Christians like William Wilberforce, John Newton, and the Clapham sect in the U.K., along with Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth in the U.S., led the movement to abolish slavery. Beyond the Western world, Christians succeeded in toppling the legal slave trades in India, Africa, the Middle East, and South America."

- Dr. Thaddeus Williams,
Professor, Theologian, and Author

“In 1944, during WWII, Corrie ten Boom and her sister, Betsie, who were committed Christians, endured ten months of unimaginable suffering while imprisoned by the Nazis for their resistance work in aiding and hiding Jews. Betsie would never leave prison alive. She died in the infamous German concentration camp, Ravensbruck, in December 1944. After Corrie’s release on New Years’ Eve, due to what she would later discover was a clerical error (a week later women her age were sent to the gas chambers), she devoted her life to sharing the love of Jesus around the world.”

- Abigail Eades,
Writer and Blogger

"Corrie and Betsie endured hunger, nakedness, being mocked and humiliated, beatings, illness and denial of proper medical care, backbreaking labor, solitary confinement, being packed with 80 women in a boxcar for three days, sleeping on the cold wet ground and later in lice- and flea-infested beds, roll call pre-dawn for hours at a time, interrogations, and witnessing the torture of other prisoners. And in the background, the incinerator at Ravensbruck reminded them that at any time they could be selected for execution. Despite numerous searches by the guards, Corrie and Betsie were able to keep hidden a small Bible that had been smuggled to them during the early days of their confinement. God's Word in written form was their lifeline, and with it they held nightly worship services for the women in their barracks."

- Abigail Eades,
Writer and Blogger

Meaningful Scripture for Corrie and Betsie while suffering the horrors of life in a concentration camp:

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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"When Corrie and Betsie arrived in Ravensbruck and were assigned to their barracks, they discovered that the beds were teeming with fleas. In the midst of the cruel treatment, deprivation, and now fleas, Betsie urged Corrie to thank God for all their circumstances—even the fleas! So Corrie reluctantly did, but she could not see how fleas were anything to be thankful for. They later discovered that the fleas kept the guards from coming inside their barracks, giving them the freedom to hold their nightly Bible reading and worship services to minister to the broken and searching hearts of the women they lived with."

- Abigail Eades,
Writer and Blogger



IS THE BIBLE ANTI-WOMEN, PRO-SLAVERY,
AND INDIFFERENT ABOUT CHILDREN?

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WOMEN:

In Genesis 1, God created women and men equally in His image. In a brutal ancient world where women were seen as property, the true story of God involves the creation of both men and women with dignity and value! By Genesis 2, the woman God created is referred to as a 'suitable helper,' which in the Hebrew is 'ezer kenegdo.' These two words are used throughout the Old Testament to describe partners, military aid, and even when God Himself rescues Israel. Fast forward to Jesus, who uplifted the dignity and value of women by ministering to them and involving them in His ministry. Historically, women in the first century flocked to Christianity, not because they believed it was oppressive, but because it was liberating.

SLAVERY:

Slavery in Israel was not like the chattel race-based unending slavery that was practiced in America and the British colonies. It was forbidden to kidnap (Exodus 21:16, Deuteronomy 24:7) or physically abuse a slave (Exodus 21:20, 26-27), unending slavery was forbidden (Deuteronomy 15:1), and it wasn't allowed to be a dehumanizing practice (Job 31:13-15, Leviticus 19:33-34).

SLAVERY:

In Israel, if a family or individual was suffering from poverty, they would contract themselves out to a wealthier family and become their slave for a designated amount of time. Slavery in Israel was more like indentured servitude and often only lasted 6-7 years. It was voluntary and not motivated by race or oppression, but as a means to escape poverty. In fact, if Israelite masters harmed their slaves or indentured servants, they would be punished. In Deuteronomy 23, God commanded that any runaway slave seeking refuge be allowed to live freely among them and not be returned to their master.

In the Greco-Roman secular culture Jesus was born into, these beliefs were acceptable and practiced:

- **The gladiatorial amphitheater games were a form of entertainment where many poverty-stricken individuals and those enslaved died for sport.**
- **Older Roman men molested younger boys as a perverted mentorship practice called pederasty.**
- **Greek mythology and religion taught that women were Zeus' evil creation and should be treated like property.**
- **Romans practiced exposing, which meant if they had an unwanted child, usually a girl or a child with a disability, they would abandon that child outside where it would eventually die."**

"If you look at the history of how we came to believe that it's not okay to enjoy watching innocent people getting killed, or that men and women are equally valuable, or that poor people should be cared for, or that it's not okay to leave a baby outside to die, the answer is one person: Jesus."

- Rebecca McLaughlin,
Author and Apologist

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Q: WHY SHOULD I DAILY ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE?

A: Through the Bible, we encounter God, are spiritually formed, solidify our doctrine, and become prepared for spiritual warfare.

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**WE READ THE WORD OF GOD
TO GET TO KNOW
THE GOD OF THE WORD.**

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“Scripture aims for its readers to embark on a journey of theological formation bounded only by the character and purpose of God.”

- Dr. Joel Green,
New Testament scholar

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All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching... Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Timothy 4:13, 16

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*For the word of God is **alive and active**. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

Hebrews 4:12

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When people engage with the Bible four or more times per week:

- Loneliness drops by 30%
 - Anger drops by 32%
 - Bitterness in relationships drops by 40%
 - Alcoholism drops by 57%
 - Feeling spiritually stagnant drops by 60%
 - Viewing pornography drops by 61%
 - Sharing your faith increases by 200%
 - Discipling another person increases by 230%
- The Center of Bible Engagement, 40,000 participants ages 8-80, 2021

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:11, 16-17

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“The ‘sword of the Spirit’ is the Bible, and it’s a powerful tool to combat evil and darkness. All of the other armor parts Paul lists are designed for defense except for one: ‘the sword of the Spirit.’ The Bible is the weapon we are commanded to use to fight against Satan’s lies!”

**- Jason Jimenez,
Apologist with Stand to Reason**

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Q: HOW CAN I BEST ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE?

A: Plan and prioritize consistent and intentional time every day to read and listen to the Bible, and God will use His Word to change your life.

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Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.

Psalm 1:1-2

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Practical tips to help you engage with the Bible...

1. Get a Bible and choose a time and place that works for you.
2. Pick one book, start to finish, one or more chapters a day.
3. Engage with the Bible privately and with others to gain better insights.
4. Pray before engaging with the Bible, asking God to reveal Himself.
5. Talk with friends and family about what you are learning.



“Never isolate a Bible verse. Always read the Bible in context.”

**- Alan Shlemon,
Apologist with Stand to Reason**

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S.O.A.P. METHOD

S = SCRIPTURE [What verses are standing out to me?]

O = OBSERVATION [Who? When? Where? What? Why?]

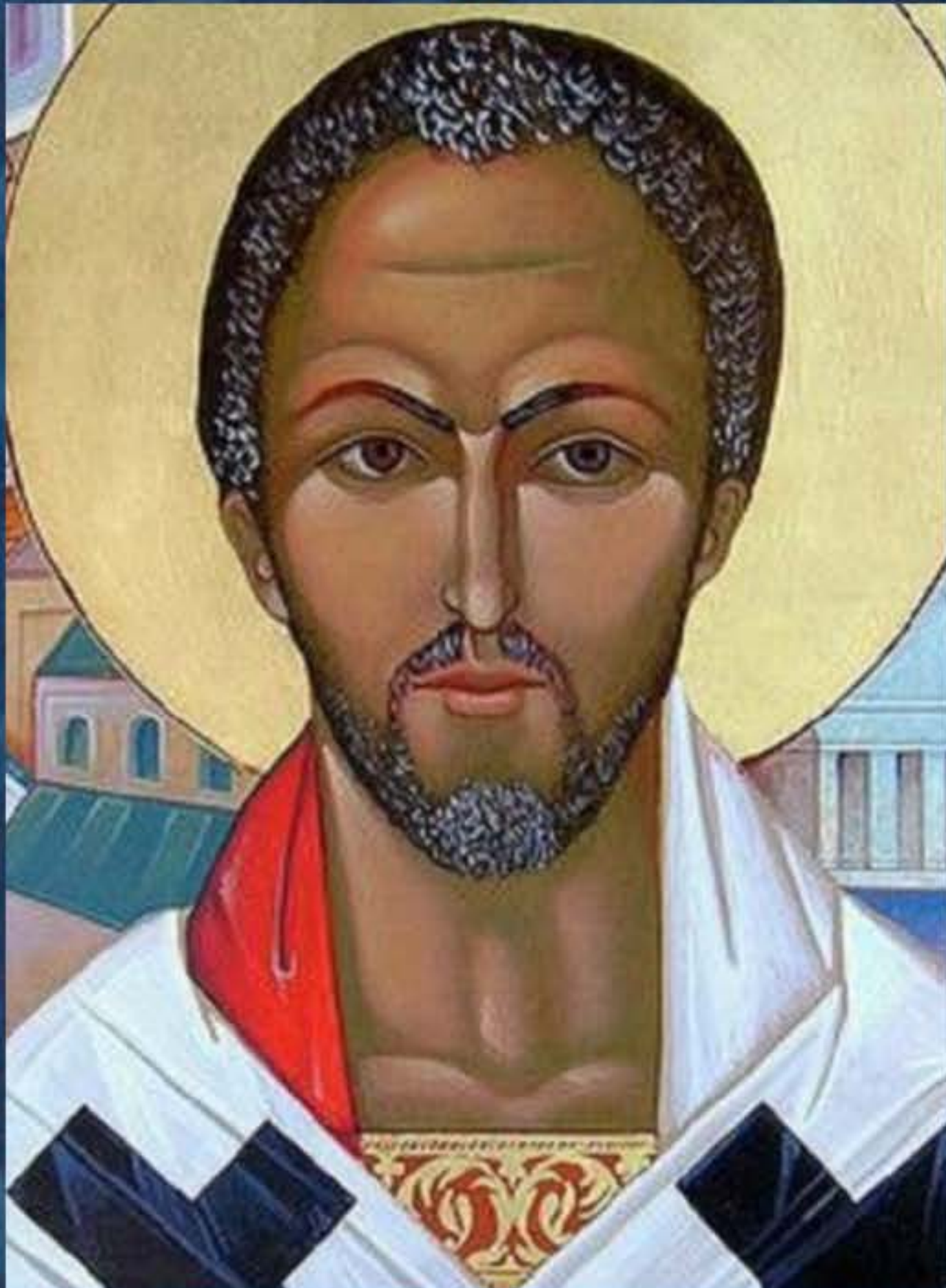
A = APPLICATION [How does this apply to my life?]

P = PRAYER [What should I pray in response to what I've read?]



Start a habit of engaging with the Bible daily
and it will change your life forever!

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“For now, treat the Scripture of God as the face of God. Melt in its presence.”

- Saint Augustine
North African Theologian, 354-430 AD

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The Bible is true, it's reliable, and it's good.

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REFLECT | DISCUSS | PRACTICE

- 1. REFLECT:** Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How have you personally experienced God's Word teaching, rebuking, correcting, training, and equipping you to obey and follow Christ?
- 2. DISCUSS:** Read 2 Peter 1:20-21. If someone asked you why you believe the Bible is reliable, what evidence would you provide and how would you explain the impact it's had on your life?
- 3. DISCUSS:** Read Psalm 119:65-68. Many in our world claim the Bible is harmful and unhelpful, what historical evidence and personal experience do you and most convincing to refute that claim?
- 4. DISCUSS:** Read Psalm 1:1-2. Why is it important for Purpose Church to anchor our teachings, practices, and authority in God's Word, the Bible?
- 5. PRACTICE:** *For the next 7 days, fast from social media, music, and screens, and instead, only read or listen to the Bible. *Unless you'll get red from your job or fail your class.



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK:

- *For the next 7 days, fast from social media, music, and screens, and instead, only read or listen to the Bible.
- *Unless you'll get fired from your job or fail your class.

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