

IntroMiscellaneous Bible Facts

- ~ The Bible contains 1189 chapters.
- ~ The Old Testament has 929 chapters and the New Testament has 260 chapters.
- ~ The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119; and the shortest is Psalm 117.
- ~ The longest verse is Esther 8:9 (90 words) and the shortest is John 11:35 (Jesus wept).
- ~ How many languages has the Bible been translated into? The Holy Bible has been translated into 2,018 languages, with countless more partial translations, and audio translations (for unwritten languages). (This is an enormous amount of translations. In comparison, Shakespeare, considered by many to be the master writer of the English language, has only been translated into 50 languages.)
- ~ When was the first translation of the Bible made into English? 1382 A.D., by John Wycliffe.
- ~ When was the Bible printed? The Bible was printed in 1454 A.D. by Johannes Gutenberg who invented the "type mold" for the printing press. It was the first book ever printed.
- ~ When did chapter and verse numberings become a part of our bible? They were then inserted into Greek manuscripts of the New Testament in the 16th century. Robert Estienne (Robert Stephanus) was the first to number the verses within each chapter, his verse numbers entering printed editions in 1551 (New Testament) and 1571 (Hebrew Bible).
- ~ Another fact about the bible is that it's a book inspired by God and Paul has written half the NT
- ~ Peter referred to Paul's writings as scripture (2 Pet 3:15,16)
- ~ In the last two recorded chapters the great apostle Paul penned he emphasized to Timothy the necessity and importance of the scriptures

2 Tim 3:10-2 Tim 4:4 (Paul' Emphasis on the Scriptures)

- V10 – Timothy knew Paul's teachings
- V10-12 – Paul's teachings of scripture enabled Paul to make it through his many trials
- V13 – Paul's teachings prevents deception
- V14 – Timothy should continue in Paul's teachings
- V15 – Paul's teachings (scripture) made Timothy wise to salvation
- V16 – Paul's teachings are profitable
- V17 – Paul's teachings mature and prepare us for good works
- 2 Tim 4:1,2 – Paul admonished Timothy to preach the word of God
- V3,4 – Paul tells Timothy there will be a time when men will not continue in scripture but will gather to themselves teachers who make them feel comfortable and good about themselves

Text2 Tim 3:16,17

- ~ **All** scripture – holy writings
 - 2 Pet 1:20,21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
 - 2 Pet 3:16 Peter referred to Paul's writings as scripture
- ~ Inspiration – God breathed
 - *2 Pet 1:20 God guided the writers in such a way that they wrote what God wanted recorded yet allowed them the freedom to use their personality, background, culture, occupation to write what God wanted written*
 - Scripture wasn't man's idea but God's
- ~ Profitability of Scripture
 - Doctrine – Teaching (Teaching us what is right)
 - Reproof – Convicting (Teaching us what is wrong)
 - Correction – Correcting (Corrects the wrong)
 - Instruction in Righteousness – Training (Teaching us how to do what is right)

~ How does this work – A few winters I remember the HS teaching me to rejoice in all things. To rejoice when not only when things are good but to rejoice when things aren't going my way and are difficult. I had a stretch where we had a lot of snow and I was outside doing snow removal at work in the company truck plowing, shoveling and snow-blowing. Doing my driveway in the morning, doing snow all day at work, coming home and my driveway was plowed in by the plow trucks, then it was really cold and I was having trouble with my car and I got frustrated and overcome. I was sitting in the car having had enough and the HS recalled this principle to me, to rejoice when things are hard and not going your way. I applied a truth the HS taught me to a situation I was struggling with. I obeyed that truth and it changed my attitude and pulled me out of the pit my mind was stuck in.

~ Results of Scripture

- Perfect (mature & complete) and ready (equipped fully) for every good work
- The end result of the scripture in our lives is we're spiritually mature and ready for doing God's will.
- We'll have the spiritual maturity and spiritual readiness to do God's will and do good works as those opportunities arise
- If we aren't mature and ready there may be opportunities to good works before that we won't be prepared for
- Good works is a theme in the bible and good works is the measure of our spiritual maturity

Conclusion

Means by which we can take in the scriptures

1 Church attendance

2 Bible reading

3 Scripture memorization

4 Listen to preaching

I want to speak to our bible reading

~ 2 Tim 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- Study – spoudazo – be diligent about
- Rightly dividing the word of truth – cutting straight. Paul as a tent maker had to be cut straight lines in material used for making tents. So, uses the analogy of cutting straight lines and so we should be able to accurately cut straight the word of God. Studying it so as to be able to accurately obey and teach it.

~ So, we need to study our bible and our bible reading should be

1 Consistently – We develop the daily devotional habit of regularly reading God's word (whether morning, afternoon or evening). The morning is probably the best because it gives God's mind for the day

2 Strategically – We have a plan to read (whether through the year plan, reading the gospels, reading the Psalms, or studying thoroughly a book of the bible and taking notes and journaling on what you've studied)

3 Joyfully – It should be a delight to study the bible. Have a nice bible, notebook and pen/pencils you use. We all enjoy nice things because it's pleasurable. If we don't have a problem with making a car payment, house payment, paying our taxes then we shouldn't have a problem with picking out a nice bible that we would enjoy picking up and reading. Get yourself a nice notebook to take notes in on what you've read and studied. Have a nice pen set to use for writing. I use a Micron Pigma pen set that is an archival pen for writing in my bible. The benefit of that is next time I read a certain passage I'll have my notes there from the previous time I studied that passage

~ Start small if you don't already have a daily devotional habit. Don't start out trying to read the gospel of John in one day. Have a plan to read two, maybe three chapters a day. If you follow a read through the bible in a year plan it usually requires only about 20 to 25 minutes

~ Start with Prayer and asking God to open your understanding and to be taught by the HS

- Ps 119:18 Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things from your word
- John 16:13 The HS is the teacher of truth

~ *Hudson Taylor* "Satan will always find you something to do when you ought to be occupied with prayer and bible study if it is only arranging a window blind"

~ The Word of God equips us to be who God wants us to be and to do what God wants us to do

~ The bible is a perfect book from a perfect God for an imperfect people

~ We take in God's word so we can be conformed into his image and do God's work