

BIBLIOLOGY

KEY QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

A. What is it?

1. It has sold more copies than any other book in history.
2. Some call it a *violent racist, sexist fable*.
3. Others believe it is a motivational tool not necessarily truth.
4. Many believe it is God's Word to mankind, the Bible.

B. What does the Bible say about itself?

1. Psalm 119:105, *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*
 - a. It is Godly counsel, Psalm 119:9, *How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.*
 - b. It is a source of strength, Psalm 119:28, *Strengthen me according to Thy word.*
 - c. It keeps one under control, Psalm 119:101, *I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Thy word.*
 - d. It is always without error, Psalm 119:160, *The sum of Thy word is truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting.*
 - e. It gives wisdom, , Psalm 119:169, *Let my cry come before Thee, O LORD; give me understanding according to Thy word.*
2. Develops faith, Romans 10:17, *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*
3. Leads one to Christ, John 5:39, *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.*

C. What has the Bible meant to others?

1. Ambrose (4th), *As in paradise, God walks in the Holy Scriptures, seeking man.*
2. Augustine (4th), *The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home.*
3. Martin Luther (16th), *The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.*
4. Mark Twain (19th), *It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.*
5. AW Tozer, *The sacred page is not meant to be the end, but only the means toward the end, which is knowing God Himself.*

D. What does the Bible mean to me?

1. It promises me eternal life, John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
2. It guarantees I will make it to heaven, Philippians 1:6, *And I am sure of this, that he who began his good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*
3. It is comfort through earthly trials, Psalm 34:4, *I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.*
4. It is a reminder to seek Him daily, Romans 8:6, *For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

E. What does the Bible mean to you?

1. Is it the *good book*?
2. Is it something you probably should read but it is not very interesting?
3. Do you have trouble understanding it?
4. Does it trouble you when you read it?
5. Could it be more?
6. An unknown writer said, *"This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity.*

CONCLUSION

- A. Questions everyone should answer.
 - 1. Do you believe the chair exists? Do you believe the Bible is the Word of God?
 - 2. Do you believe it will hold you? Do you believe the Bible can give you comfort and guidance?
 - 3. Are you trusting the chair to hold you? Are you reading the Bible regularly, seeking to obey what you learn?

- B. Trust demands dependence.
 - 1. Read it. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Each man should use the word of God personally, practically, and habitually, that he may see his way and see what lies in it.*
 - 2. Ask God to give you understanding. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*
 - 3. Commit to obey what God teaches you. Luke 11:28, Jesus said, *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!*