



take up and read

Psalm 119 – Why Read The Bible?

December 31, 2023

1. We love the Bible because of what it is.

A. The Bible is eternal.

Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Psalm 119:89 (ESV)

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8 (ESV)

...since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 1 Peter 1:23 (ESV)

B. The Bible has infinite value.

The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. Psalm 119:72 (ESV)

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. Psalm 119:37 (ESV)

And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV)

C. The Bible is truth in a world of deception.

Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true. Psalm 119:142 (ESV)

Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law! Psalm 119:29 (ESV)

...in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began Titus 1:2 (ESV)

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17 (ESV)

D. The Bible is protection in times of trouble.

Trouble and anguish have found me out, but your commandments are my delight. Psalm 119:143 (ESV)

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word. Psalm 119:114 (ESV)

E. The Bible is a source of joy.

Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. Psalm 119:111 (ESV)

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103 (ESV)

2. We love the Bible because of what it does.

A. The Bible brings happiness.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,... Psalm 119:1–2 (ESV)

B. The Bible cleanses from sin.

I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart (set my heart free)! Psalm 119:32 (ESV)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:25–27 (ESV)

C. The Bible brings life and success.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. Psalm 119:9 (ESV)

May my heart be blameless in your statutes, that I may not be put to shame!
Psalm 119:80 (ESV)

D. The Bible gives guidance for life's decisions.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors. Psalm 119:24 (ESV)

E. The Bible brings peace in times of anxiety.

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.
Psalm 119:165 (ESV)

If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.
Psalm 119:92 (ESV)

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.
Psalm 119:50 (ESV)

My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!
Psalm 119:28 (ESV)

3. How should I treat my Bible?

A. I should study it.

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.
Psalm 119:15 (ESV)

My eyes are awake before the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promise. Psalm 119:148 (ESV)

B. I must obey it.

I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. Psalm 119:60 (ESV)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.
Psalm 119:33 (ESV)

C. I should memorize it.

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. Psalm 119:16 (ESV)

D. I should enjoy it.

...for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.

Psalm 119:47 (ESV)

I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil. Psalm 119:162 (ESV)

E. I should sing it.

Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning.

Psalm 119:54 (ESV)

My tongue will sing of your word, for all your commandments are right.

Psalm 119:172 (ESV)

F. I should ask God's help to understand it.

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

Psalm 119:18 (ESV)

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my

whole heart. Psalm 119:34 (ESV)

4. What is my plan to get the Bible into my life?

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. Romans 13:14 (ESV)

Will you accept the Take-Up-And-Read challenge?

- The New Testament in 1 year, reading 1 chapter 5 days a week.
- The Old Testament in 3 years, reading 1 chapter 6 days a week
- Sign up on the app or text the word "read" to 712-900-0109 to let us know.

Life Group Questions

1. Why is the Bible different from other books? How has God used personal Bible study to shape your life?
2. **Read 2 Timothy 2:15, Joshua 1:8, 1 Timothy 4:13, and Job 23:12.** What do these verses teach us about consistently studying God's Word?
3. **Read Psalm 119: 67, 71, 74.** How does God use life's difficulties to draw us back to the Bible? Have you experienced that in your life?
4. **Read Psalm 119:98, 99, 104.** What do these verses promise will happen as we spend time in God's Word?
5. **Read Psalm 119:34, 125, 135, 144.** David consistently prayed for help to understand the Bible. How does that change the way you think about the Bible and approach reading it?
6. Did you sign up for the Take-Up-And-Read challenge?