

## Upcoming Events...

**Fall Gospel Meeting:** Mike Wilson, November 11-14

**Business Meeting:** Today 4:30 p.m.

**Ladies Bible Class:** October 21

## If You Have a Bible

If you have a Bible - **READ IT.**  
If you read the Bible - **BELIEVE IT.**  
If you believe the Bible - **LIVE IT.**

## Some things to think about...

*“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference”* - The Serenity Prayer

## October Birthdays (Sorry this was included late)

3 Betty Heitmeyer

28 Allan Brown

### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
Mike McKnight

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# Indio Informer

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## Authority in Religion

Author Unknown

Only two sources of authority exist in religion. Authority is “*from heaven [Divine] or from men [human]*” (Matthew 21:25). Human authorities consist of such things as the rulings of one man or a council/ convention of men, creed books, the majority vote of members, and personal conscience. Such sources constitute no standard at all, for they are all subjective, arising from the thoughts, desires, philosophies, and whims of men. Human authorities in religion produce doctrinal division and confusion and endorsement of such things as sexual immorality, drinking, and gambling.

Jeremiah stated the fallacy of reliance upon human religious authority: “*O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps*” (Jeremiah 10:23).

Right religion demands an objective standard, one that originates apart from human thinking, desires, and opinions. The Bible is verily that objective standard.

While approximately forty men were employed in its writing, they did not write their own philosophies and thoughts. They spoke “*not in words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth*” (1 Corinthians 2:13). The Bible came from men who “*spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit*” (2 Peter 1:21).

The Bible is our Creator’s revelation of Himself and His will to His rational creation. Men could not know the will or the plan of God for us without the revelation of this mystery through the

inspired men (1 Corinthians 2:7-10). No one knows one thing about how to worship God so as to please Him apart from the New Testament. Apparently, many think that God is somehow obligated to accept whatever they choose to offer, but not so. We must worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24), and only the Bible tells us how to do so. Jesus said that men who reject Bible doctrine for their own precepts worship in vain (Matthew 15:9).

Likewise, the New Testament is the only source of information on how God wants us to behave in our daily lives. The world is drowning in its own moral filth because so many people have rejected God and His will in favor of their own subjective, selfish lusts (Romans 1:21-32).

Without the Bible we would not know that we are sinners in need of salvation. Moreover, we would never have known of God's gracious plan to save us had He not revealed it to us in His Word, the only source of this information.

## Is the Bible Complete?

By Jimmy W. Cox

For most of us, such a question is not necessary. For the Bible is the "Word of God". It contains 66 books, starts with Genesis, and ends with Revelation. It gives instructions for three different ages—Patriarchal, Jewish, Christian. We live in the Christian age— Read Acts, chap. 2, for its beginning.

However, some religious groups, and many individuals claim that the Holy Spirit has appeared unto them, and gave them certain messages. However, if such messages in any way are different from the Word of God, then we know they did not come from the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.

Let us notice **2 Timothy 3:16-17** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God

may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." The phrase, "all scripture", includes all the inspired words of God.

**2 Peter 1:20-21** "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." Also read John 6:63.

**2 Peter 1:3** "As His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue." The "knowledge" of Christ (2 Peter 1:2), can be fully known by a study of both Old and New Testaments, which contain the totality of inspired scripture (**Psalm 119:160, Psalm 139:17**). Without a knowledge of the totality of the inspired scriptures, how could we have been given "all things that pertain to life and godliness."?

**Jude 1:3** tells us that the faith was "once for all delivered to the saints." The meaning here is that God's truth has been "once" delivered for all time. It is a permanent delivery from God that will never be superseded, amended or modified. (**Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, Revelation 22:18-19; Galatians 1:6-12**).

**James 1:25** "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." The word "perfect" is from a Greek word meaning "finished, complete, perfect." If you add to or take away from that which is "perfect", then it is no longer perfect. Obey God's "perfect word."

## Interesting Quotes...

"Don't fall into the trap of studying the Bible without doing what it says." -Francis Chan

"Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand." -Mark Twain