

ATTENTION!!

MeetUp Class
Monday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m.
28561 Sunnyslope St.
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

The Bible

“All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Visiting Needs

Jesus Said...*"I was sick and you visited Me..."*
Matthew 25:36

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson 16 Alana Hudson
23 Shannon Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

Indio Informer

Vol. 33 No. 16

April 17, 2022

An Ancient Book With a Relevant Message

By Dan Jenkins



Far too many people have the attitude that asks, “How can a book more than 1,900 years old have any relevance in my life?” It is true that parts of the Bible are more than 3,000 years old, but it is equally true that the nature of man has not changed. Our God is eternal, and the truth that His holiness is the standard for our holiness is found in both the Old and New Testaments (Leviticus 11:44: 1 Peter 1:16).

Jesus certainly did not see the message of the Old Testament as having nothing to do with the people of the first century. They could so easily have asked, “How could words spoken to men who lived 1,500 years ago have anything to do with our lives?” In Matthew chapter twenty-two, Jesus talked about the events at the burning bush. Read His words carefully. *“Have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?’”*

Jesus looked at these words spoken at the burning bush and said that people who lived 1,500 years later and read these words would hear God speaking to them! It is foolish to think that because the words of the Bible are thousands of years old, they have nothing to do with us. The truth is that when we read these words spoken 3,500 years ago, God is still speaking to us!

Regular Meeting Times

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

Website:
indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

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This same truth is seen in Paul's sermon at Antioch. Paul described how the Jews had heard Jesus speak to them, but they "*did not know Him.*" He then added, "*...nor the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath*" (Acts 13:27). When they read the ancient words of those prophets in the synagogues, they were reading words just as relevant as the words they actually heard when Jesus spoke them. All those things written have relevance today (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11).

The writer of Hebrews shows this same truth and affirms this in an amazing way. He quotes the words of Jeremiah about the new covenant God was planning to make with the Jews. It was not to be the same ten commandment covenant He made with the Jews when they departed from Egypt (Deuteronomy 4:13; Jeremiah 31:31-34).

Those words from Jeremiah had been written at least 600 years prior to the writing of Hebrews. Look carefully at how God speaks of the relevancy of ancient words. "*The Holy Spirit witnesses to us*" (Hebrews 10:15). One might think that reading Jeremiah was to hear what an ancient prophet spoke to others. Such could not be further from truth. To read the words of Jeremiah was to listen to the Holy Spirit of God speaking to us! They were written to the Jews, but they speak to us!

So, when we read the Bible, remember that God designed the book so that it speaks to all men—it speaks to us! Read it; listen to it; obey it! Eternity demands we do this.

Number of Americans who use the Bible drops off cliff

(Excerpts from an interesting but disturbing article from Internet) (I've **highlighted** some significant stats! JB)

That's the conclusion of the State of the Bible USA 2022 by the American Bible Society. "In every study since 2018, **Bible Users** have accounted for between 47 and 49 percent of American adults," the survey found. "However, **the 2022 data showed a 10-percent decrease from same time in 2021.**

"That means **nearly 26 million Americans reduced or stopped their interaction with Scripture in the past year,**" it reported. The author reported, "I'd like to take a few pages to explain why 2022 is not a normal year for State of the Bible. Despite our hopes

for the new year, 2022 continues to be headlined by disruptions that are impacting America's relationship with the Bible in profound ways..." The report showed Bible Users at 49% in 2019, 48% in 2020, 50% in 2021, and only 39% in 2022.

No matter how sincerely we wish they would go away, the COVID-19 pandemic, political polarization, and other disruptions are still affecting the nation...There can be little doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously disrupted Americans' behaviors, including their relationships with church communities, which are the epicenter of these behaviors for most American Christians."

The polling also found **those who think the nation would be better off without the Bible remained the same as a year ago, at 14%, but ...those who think it would be worse off dropped from 54% to 45%.**

"Six out of seven people (86%) agreed that the moral values of American are declining," including 64% among those who are "elders" and 57% of those who are "boomers." The reasons cited by respondents included lack of positive parental involvement, negative influence of the media, social media, low level of respect for the Bible and negative influence of government leaders.

And while **10% of respondents use the Bible daily, a stunning 60% "never" use it or at a maximum once or twice a year.** "Perhaps the Bible has been neglected or simply taken for granted as people dealt with the challenges of reassembling their lives after a disruptive pandemic. **A significant number of people say they 'never seem to have enough time' to read the bible.** But we also find that attitudes are changing. This year, **more people say that America would stay 'about the same' if no one read the Bible."**

Decision Magazine reported on the issue: "In light of growing Bible illiteracy..."The Bible is ultimately a book of reality: it reveals God's character and purposes in the world to us. It tells us who we are and our greatest need. Good preaching helps people yearn to understand the Bible this way. ... **While we can't assume people love and know the Word, we can be clear in communicating its message and confident in its power to change lives."**