

How The Bible Goes Bad

The Passage

Mark 12:35-40 (See also Matthew 23:1-39)

How The Bible Goes Bad

- When we use it as **BINOCULARS** instead of a **MIRROR**
2 Timothy 3:15-17/ James 1:22-25/ Psalm 119:105/ Matthew 7:3-5
- When we turn it into a book of **SUGGESTIONS**
Matthew 23:23-24/ 2 Timothy 4:3
- When we focus on **SPECULATION** instead of **OBEDIENCE**
1 Timothy 1:3-7/ Proverbs 30:5-6
- When our biblical **KNOWLEDGE** becomes a source of **PRIDE**
1 Corinthians 8:1/ 2 Corinthians 1:13/ 2 Corinthians 11:3-4
- When we use it to **HAMMER** other **CHRISTIANS**
1 Corinthians 5:9-13/ Isaiah 5:20/ 1 Corinthians 11:17-19
- When we teach **ONE THING**, but do **ANOTHER**
Matthew 23:3-4/ Matthew 23:28/ James 3:1

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of October 13, 2019

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Larry talked about using the Bible to hammer other Christians. Have you ever been on the receiving end of someone using the Bible as a hammer? How did that feel?

Of the six wrong ways Larry mentioned we can use the Bible, which of them would be easiest for you to fall into?

2. How has your attitude about the Bible and how you read/study/listen to it changed over the years?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and 171 of its 176 verses contain a reference to God's Word. This Psalm gives us an inside look at how the writer, King David, used the Scriptures to stay connected with God in the midst of chaotic life circumstances. As you read through the various sections of this Psalm:

1. **Circle / highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
2. **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
3. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

vs 1-8 ¹Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. ²Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart— ³they do no wrong but follow his ways. ⁴You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. ⁵Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! ⁶Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. ⁷I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. ⁸I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

vs. 9-16 ⁹How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. ¹⁰I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. ¹²Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. ¹³With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. ¹⁴I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. ¹⁵I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. ¹⁶I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

vs. 65-72 ⁶⁵Do good to your servant according to your word, Lord. ⁶⁶Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands. ⁶⁷Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. ⁶⁸You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. ⁶⁹Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart. ⁷⁰Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law. ⁷¹It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. ⁷²The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

What attitudes and actions do you see David maintaining to keep God's Word active in his life?

Which of David's attitudes toward God's Word can you relate to the most? Which is most foreign to you?

Looking back at what you wrote, are there any of these actions or attitudes you might want to consider adopting when it comes to keeping Scripture an active part of your life?

2. Humility is a very important character trait for helping us stay teachable and less likely to use the Bible in “bad” ways. When we are proud we do the opposite. What do you learn about pride and humility from the following passages?
(NIV – New International Version)

Proverbs 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

1 Peter 5:5-7 - In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Looking back at each of the six ways the Bible can go bad, how would each of these particular “ways” be impacted by humility?

Humility is often defined as an accurate view of ourselves - including our strengths, weaknesses and limitations. Do you think humility in our interactions with others is similar or different from humility in our relationship with God?

TAKING IT HOME

Take a moment to evaluate the level of attention you’ve been giving the Bible and how you’re getting it into your life regularly. Are there any changes you need to make?

PRAYER REQUESTS

→

→

→

→



REAL MAN WEEKEND – “The Palomar Experience”- Oct. 25-27

Lookin’ for some crazy guy stuff to do? Want to kick back or get refocused on God? Join us for another epic men’s weekend that will get you recharged and refreshed as **Chris Brown & Trent Jenkins** lead us into a look at what a real man is and isn’t! The weekend will also include plenty of “man” event options like paintball, high ropes course, skeet shooting, archery, zipline, horseback riding, etc. Space is limited so don’t delay! Room Options: \$155-\$199 Register online at northcoastchurch.com/real-man-weekend



Whether you’re at the start of your journey with Jesus, or a long time follower, Scripture is God’s communication and gift to us. Here’s another way to keep God’s Word in your life. The **Read Scripture App** and **The Bible Project** both offer a reading plan along with engaging and accessible videos that help us see how the Bible is a unified story leading to Jesus.

Read Scripture App – readscripture.org & [iTunes App Store](https://itunes.apple.com) or [Google Play](https://play.google.com)

The Bible Project - thebibleproject.com