The Bible

We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be without error, the fully inspired and infallible Word of God, and the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

"Outdated", "contradictory", "judgemental", "homophobic", "boring" are all words people used in a YouGov survey for the Bible Society to describe the Bible. What words would you use?

Does it disturb you that less than 5% described the Bible as relevant?

We should place a high value on the Bible.

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." JOHN 8:31-32

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Copies of copies will inevitably lead to errors. The earliest manuscripts are the most accurate.

Some bibles such as the NKJV, ESV & NASB are word for word translations nearest to the earliest manuscripts, but they can be a little stiff to read.

Translations like the NIV are easier to read and although they may not always use the original words. They attempt to convey the meaning of the original text as closely as possible.

The Living Bible and The Message are examples of Bible paraphrases and often use modern idioms to communicate the text in a way that is easily and readily understood.

What is your favourite Bible version?

How can paraphrased Bibles be useful?

Why isn't it a good idea to base our theology on paraphrased versions of the Bible?

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For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 PETER 1:21

Whatever the Bible says about itself, man, God, life, death, history, science, and every other subject is true. This does not mean that every statement in the Bible is true, because the

Bible records the lies of men and of Satan. But the record is true." WARREN WIERSBE.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 TIM 3:16-17

Scripture is profitable to

a) Teach you

Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me. PSALM 25:4-5

Sanctify them by your word. JOHN 17:17

The scriptures were not given for our information but our transformation. DL MOODY

News articles inform us. Novels may inspire us. Poetry may encapture us, but only that living, active Word of God can transform us. CHUCK SWINDOLL

Scripture is profitable to

b) Rebuke you.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. HEBREWS 4:12

"Most people are bothered by the passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me most are those I do understand." MARK TWAIN

Is there an example in your life that you can think of when the Scripture rebuked you for an attitude or behaviour?

The Scripture is profitable to

c) Correct you

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ACTS 17:11

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I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. PSALM 119:11

Please note the statement below is one of many perspectives in the Methodist Church; (I know many mature Christians who are Methodists) this is an example of their most liberal viewpoints.

The bible comprises a diverse and often contradictory collection of documents which represent the experiences of various people in various times and places. The Christian's task is to follow, in some way, the example of Christ. And to the extent that the bible records evidence of his character and teaching it offers a useful resource.

However, in the 20th century it is simply not possible to obey all its teachings since these stem from very human authors and often represent the ideology of particular groups or classes in an ancient and foreign culture. Reason and experience provide much more important tools for faith and practice.

(A Lamp to My Feet and a Light to My Path. The nature of authority and the place of the bible in the Methodist Church.)

What aspects of the above statement would a member of an Elim Church agree with?

The Scripture is profitable to

d) Train you in righteousness.

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6

What does the Passover teach us?

What does the story of the 12 spies going to spy out the land tell us?

What does the feeding of the 5,000 tell us?

What have your recently learned from the examples of events or people in the Bible?

N.B., A parent once told me that they were allowing their child to do as she pleased as she needed to discover what was right by experiencing what was wrong for herself. But it's far better to know what's wrong by knowing that which is right from the

examples of those who messed up in the Bible, and save the heartache and pain.

God did not give us the Bible just to tell us what happened in the past. He gave it to equip us to live in the present in light of the future. BRUCE WILKINSON

The Bible should affect our hearts not just or heads.

"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! John 5:39

The Pharisees demonstrate that it is possible to know the scriptures but not allow it to affect your life. (A good Jewish boy would learn to recite the first five books of the Bible from the age of four – starting with Leviticus!)

It's possible to read the Bible and not allow to change your life. How can you make sure the Bible speaks to you when you read it?

Is there a Bible reading plan that you have found helpful?

Are there Bible reading notes that you have found helpful?

What is your desire and expectancy when you read the Bible?