

List your favorite verses here.

A Bible Guide

From the Goffstown, New Hampshire Bible Chat

Have you heard of the Jefferson Bible? As we know, Thomas Jefferson one of the country's founders, was a well educated and very intelligent man. In addition to his familiarity with classical literature and language, not to mention his acumen for organization and government, Jefferson was a serious student of the Holy Bible. Though some argue that his interest in scripture was more intellectual than spiritual, there is no denying Jefferson's respect for and understanding of Holy Writ.

The Jefferson Bible is a reflection of a man who, like a selective eater in front of a big tossed salad, wants to pick out his favorite elements and leave the rest behind for someone else to digest. What Thomas Jefferson did was to literally cut out the sections of scripture he felt either not original or simply not helpful or true of God as Jefferson 'knew' God.

Question – What would your Bible read like if you could keep only the sections and sayings that seemed good, helpful, right to you? Start writing them down. See what develops. Then ask yourself if what you would save tells the story of God's interactions with humankind fully or not. How is 'your' Bible more helpful, clear and less confusing than the Holy Bible as it stands.

The 'Selective Bible' passages chosen by the Goffstown New Hampshire Bible Chat group include:

Pastoral Guidance:

Isaiah 61:1 For strength/Social Justice – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

Isaiah 52:7 Good tidings/assurance – How beautiful upon the mountain.

Ezekiel 36:24-28 Encouragement/transformation – A new heart and a new spirit

Isaiah 32:17&18 Spiritual/pastoral guidance – Quietness and trust forever

Luke 1:78-80 Encouragement – The dawn from on high shall break upon us

Luke 1:44-55 Encouragement – My soul shall magnify the Lord

Psalms 22 - Hope promised

Lamentations 3:22 Assurance and hope – Steadfast love never ceases

Psalms 23 The Lord is my shepherd

Luke 6:19 Healing power

Psalms 51 Create in me a clean heart

Psalms 139 God's care for us

Philippians 4:8&9 Steadfast love

A Prayer from Thomas Crammer 1549

“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*”

Assurance/Hope

Matthew 5:2-12 Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 11:28 Relief

John 6:34-40 I am the bread of life.

John 15:11-17 That my joy may be in you...

John 16:25-33 Take courage

Mark 2:27&28 The Sabbath made us

John 10:30 The Father and I are one

Matthew 12:9-13

Mark 10:13-16 Bring the children to me

Luke 11:1-4 The Lord's Prayer

Romans 8:38 Spiritual compass – of nothing shall separate us from the love of God

Matthew 13:45 - Parable of the Pearl

Matthew 7:7-12 - Ask, Seek

hope

Inspiration

John 14:15-17 The Spirit is in you.

2 Corinthians 5:6&7 We walk by faith not by sight

John 17:11-21 ..that they all may be one.

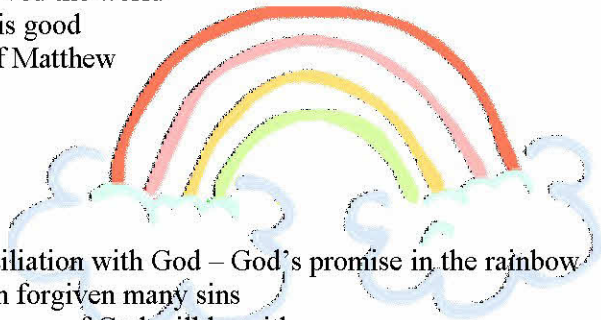
Isaiah 58:6-12 ...the fast that I choose.

Numbers 11:29b would that all my people were prophets...

John 3:11-16 God so loved the world

Genesis 1:31 Creation is good

Matthew 9:9-13 Call of Matthew



Reconciliation

Genesis 9:8-17 Reconciliation with God – God's promise in the rainbow

Luke 7:36-50 A woman forgiven many sins

Philippians 4:4-9 The peace of God will be with you.

John 1:1-14 World view – In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God...

Job 42:10-17 The Lord blessed the latter days of Job...

Luke 13:18&19 Parable of the mustard seed

Luke 6:27-36 Be merciful as God is merciful.

Matthew 18:12-14 The Lost Sheep

Ethical Imperatives

Micah 6:8 Rule of life – What does the Lord require of you?

Psalm 4:4-8 – Speak your heart in silence before your bed

Luke 10:25-37 – The Good Samaritan

Exodus: 20:1-17 Ten Commandments

Deuteronomy 5:1-21 The Ten Commandments

Matthew 25:31-45 Ethical imperative – Whenever you did this for the least among you, you did it (or didn't) for me.

Luke 12:22-26 Do not be anxious.

Luke 7:50 Go in peace, your faith has made you well.

Luke 6:27-35 Do unto others...

I Corinthians 13:1-13 Way of real love

Isaiah 1:16&17 Learn to do good...

Matthew 22:37-40 Great command – You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...

Philippians 4:13 Encouragement

The biblical verses of this scriptural spiritual resource were chosen over a period of time in 2010 by the members of a weekly Bible Chat group consisting of people of different religious backgrounds, ages, sexes and life experiences. All agreed on each verse chosen. Each verse was deemed to be a resource for help, guidance, inspiration, comfort or insight. All agreed that there may be many more phrases or sections of scripture to be included in such a resource. That is where you come in. Start a list of what you would add. Add it. Write it in a margin. Share it with someone else. Feel free to copy this, expand it and pass it on to a loved one or friend.

For in truth that is what the Word is for, sharing with one another as spiritual beings on an earthly pilgrimage. We hope this resource will be of help and support, inspiration and guidance to you or someone you care about.

Though there is no replacing your Holy Bible, these pages might fit well inside the cover of yours as a guide of sorts – a starting point that will propel you far, fueled with holy words of wisdom and grace – headed for wholeness and perfect peace. God bless you!

The Bible Chat Group – Goffstown, New Hampshire
The Rev. Wm. E. Exner, Convener

The Word