



Bible literacy

In this week's Bulletin there is a test of 35 Bible questions. There will be more over the next two weeks.

This is a self test and no one except you and God will know how well you did – unless you are a child and then your parents should know your score.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present
yourself approved to God as a
workman who does not need to be
ashamed, handling accurately the
word of truth.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the
truth; Thy word is truth.

Acts 17:11 Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so.

What will guide our lives?

What kind of philosophy will we
follow?

In a poll of Biblical literacy
(2014), 79% of Americans
believe the Bible is holy. 88% of
households have a Bible.

only 45 percent of those who regularly attend church read the Bible more than once a week. Over 40 percent of the people attending read their Bible occasionally, maybe once or twice a month. Almost 1 in 5 churchgoers say they never read the Bible

In Britain, “1 in 3 children didn't choose the Nativity as part of the Bible and 59 percent didn't know that Jonah being swallowed by the great fish is in the Bible.”

“Around 30 percent of British parents didn't know Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, or the Good Samaritan are in the Bible. ... 27 percent think Superman is or might be a biblical story. More than 1 in 3 believes the same about Harry Potter. And 54 percent believe The Hunger Games is or might be a story from the Bible.”

One-third of Bible readers say they most often read the King James Version of the Bible. Since tracking began in 2011, the KJV has seen a nine-point decrease in percentage of people who read it most often (45% in 2011 to 34% in 2014). 13% prefer the New International Version while 10% use the New King James Version. The English Standard version is read by 6% of Bible readers, while the New Living Translation is read by 4%.

“Within highly secularized nations such as France, the U.K. and Holland, broad majorities report a positive attitude towards the Bible, describing it as “interesting” and expressing a desire to know more about it.”

One blogger on the subject – “Those who foolishly choose to believe 2000-3000 year old writings by unknown people with unknown motives and qualifications and not question their validity are foolish indeed! God does not write books and science has revealed that the earth is a lot older than 6000 years. Any book that has as many contradictions, absurdities and atrocities as the bible deserves no respect from thinking, modern adults”

“Three in 10 adults say the Bible is the inspired word of God and has no errors, although some verses are meant to be symbolic. Another 23% consider it to be the actual Word of God that should be taken literally, word for word.”

“Eighteen percent of adults express strong skepticism of Scripture, stating that it is just another book of teachings written by men that contains stories and advice. Ten percent believe Scripture is not inspired by God but just a book that tells how its writers understood the ways and principles of God.”

From a Gallup Poll in 2004 “Fewer than half of teens (49 percent) knew what happened at the wedding at Cana.... Given a choice of four quotations from the Bible, almost two-thirds of teens could not correctly identify a quotation from the Sermon on the Mount. Similarly, fewer than a third of teens ... knew that David tried to kill King Saul. One-quarter of teens believed that the statement “David was king of the Jews” was false.

“Americans feel the Bible strongly discourages prostitution (58%), homosexual or same-sex relationships (57%), pornography (52%) and gambling (49%).”

Obviously, about half the population doesn't believe these things are discouraged!

It is important to have a knowledge of the Bible from an educational standpoint and even more so from a philosophical standpoint.

“Few other books have been so influential in American culture, history, language, arts, and letters, and at the same time so likely to generate controversy among educational elites, especially when it comes to public schools.”

Do you
understand
the version
you are
using?



Bible literacy requires more than being
able to read – we must understand

Ps 16:7 I will bless the LORD, who hath
given me counsel: my reins also instruct me
in the night seasons. KJV

What does the word “reins” mean?

Prov 23:16 Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when
thy lips speak right things. KJV
16.7 (heart NIV; mind NAS, AS)

Isa 11:5 And righteousness shall
be the girdle of his loins, and
faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

KJV (loins ASV; waist NIV)

Literally “kidneys”

Eph 4:19 Who being past feeling
have given themselves over unto
lasciviousness, to work all
uncleanness with greediness. KJV
sensuality NASB
immoral ways NLT
every kind of impurity NET Online

A knowledge of the English,
both King James and modern
will not allow us to become
Bible scholars unless we
combine our knowledge of
language with the logic to
determine the Bible's meaning.

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus
you who formerly were far off
have been brought near by the
blood of Christ. 14 For He
Himself is our peace, who made
both groups into one, and broke
down the barrier of the dividing
wall,

Who is the He of v. 14?

*For He Himself is our peace, who
made both groups into one, and
broke down the barrier of the
dividing wall*

The antecedent of a pronoun is most often the noun immediately preceding it.

Jesus preached through the agency of
Paul –

If I give you the money to buy a loaf
of bread for a picnic, who bought the
bread. Both you and I did.

You were my agent, just as Paul was
Jesus' agent.

In reviewing your Biblical literacy, where do you stand?

Ps 19:7 The law of the LORD is
perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is
sure, making wise the simple.
8 The precepts of the LORD are
right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD
is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;

The judgments of the LORD are true;
they are righteous altogether.

10 They are more desirable than
gold, yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the
drippings of the honeycomb.

If this is your sentiment, are you
willing to obey Jesus'
commands?

Mark 16:16 "He who has believed
and has been baptized shall be
saved; but he who has disbelieved
shall be condemned.