

Eight Reasons Why People Do Not Read Their Bible

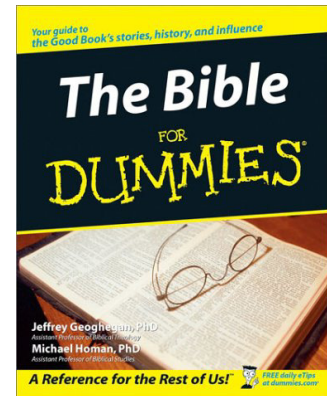
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Excuses as to why people resist the Bible.

1. It is too large.

We live in a world that is ever-growing with ignorance. At one time in this country we were a people that strived in our education by always reading books. As our technology advanced, televisions, radios, music, movies and any number of media devices have competed with our learning. We no longer desire to seek challenging volumes of written information. The Bible is a book that takes quite a long time to read, containing the following amounts.

- 1,189 chapters (more than all the verses of every Beatle song ever recorded)
- 31,103 verses (twenty-five thousand more than the Quran)
- 774,746 words (more than the first five books of Harry Potter combined)



I have actually come across people that will not read the Bible because they feel threatened by the size of it. They have a book on Amazon called “The Bible for Dummies” for those that want to get the condensed version of the scriptures. This book is too big to be mastered in one reading.

Solution: Remind them that the Bible is a book that is meant to read the rest of your life. *Ps 119:160* “*The sum of Thy word is truth...*” What air is to lungs, the Bible is to the soul.

2. It sometimes appears to be inconsistent to the untrained eye.

Every now and then I will find a soul that bashes the Bible by pointing out what seems to be inconsistencies. For example: Genesis chapter one explains the six days of creation, ending on say six with the advent of mankind. By the time you get to chapter two we find God making Adam and Eve??? They say, “How could God make mankind twice? This is inconsistent.” As foolish as it sounds, some actually say this. Obviously Moses is providing more detailed information of the same account.

Another example they like to bring up would be the following: It says in *Exodus 33:20* *But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"* and it says in *John 1:18* *No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained {Him.}* Yet Jacob states in *Gen 32:30* *"I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved."* Obviously there is a contradiction here or is there. To the person that would have read the entire Bible, they would have come across *Hosea 12:4* *"Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed"* It was not God that Jacob encountered, but a messenger of God. Contradiction is over. There are hundreds of examples like these, but they are all reasoned when attempted.

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Solution: The Bible does not contain inconsistencies, only revelations of ignorance. The “inconsistencies” exist between the ears of men, not the covers of the book.

3. They have already dismissed God as real.

We live in a culture that promotes with great pride agnosticism and atheism. They come to this conclusion not based on the evidence, but what they claim is the “lack of it”. Psalm 14:1, *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."* Because they dismiss God the Creator as non-existent, they cannot find themselves committing anytime to a book that represents Him. They might say, “Why would I read this book when I know that God is not real?”

Solution: The Bible is evidence and they would know God is real if they would only read it. They cannot reason the Bible away if they have not yet studied it. Otherwise their opinion is an uneducated one.

4. It condemns them concerning their sins.

John records in *John 3:19-20*, *"And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.* There are many that do not want to read the Bible because it might condemn a practice that they are trapped in.

- To the murderer it speaks condemnation.
- To the drunkard it speaks condemnation.
- To the liar it speaks condemnation.
- To the fornicator it speaks condemnation.
- To the materialist it speaks condemnation.

1 Corinthians 6:9, *Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?* This is more than some can take, for nobody likes to hear they might have a problem with God. If they can eliminate from their life that which God condemns, then they think they will feel better.

Solution: Remind them that the Bible is called the Book of Life because it possesses the power to help men escape the grip of sin. *John 3:21*, *"But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."*

5. Someone they know might be condemned.

This is one that I have personally come across numerous times when presenting the Bible to people. They might have a relative or a friend that might have died in an unsafe status according to the Bible. They do not want to hear what the Bible says about this because it hurts. They believe that by not reading it will make the problem go away. They become biblical ostriches by burying their heads in ignorance.

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Jesus said in *Matthew 10:37*, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. He said this because often times the Jews that followed Jesus in those days would be disowned by their family.

Solution: Don't you want to know the truth for yourself? Don't you think that your loved-one would want the very best for you? Read the Bible and find out what that BEST is.

6. It contains miracles which defy the present physical world.

There are those that refuse to read the Bible because it mentions miracles, something they do not believe in. To them it is nothing more than a book of fairy tales, for miracles do not occur today.

A miracle is an extraordinary event in the physical world that surpasses all known human or natural powers and is ascribed to a supernatural cause. The bible does contain many miracles, both in the Old and New Testament. Beginning with the creation account itself, continuing through the plagues of Moses all the way to Jesus and the apostles, there were many miracles carried out.

- There were cataclysmic miracles affecting the sun, sky, waters, nature and earth.
- There were people raised from the dead and others put to death through miraculous means.
- The blind saw, the deaf heard, the lame walked and the dumb spoke.

To the skeptic it would seem that they have a point, for we really do not see these miracles occurring today. The history book of the Bible explains the reason for such happenings as being to confirm the writings so that we would have a Bible.

- Mark 16:20, And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.
- Hebrews 2:4, God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Solution: If there were NOT miracles during the ancient time of the writing of the Bible, we would not have a Bible. The fact that we have one and I am asking you to read it is absolutely reasonable.

7. Bible-toting hypocrites turned them off.

We are supposed to be a people of the Bible, but sometimes we do not live like it. Jesus said in *Matthew 5:16*, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." The people around you already know that there is a life of morality that is within the pages of the

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Bible; therefore they are looking for this in the lives that we live. What happens when they see Bible-toting individuals living like Bible-hating souls? They tend not to want to have anything to do with it, including the reading of the Bible.

Solution: If that is the case, then forgive me for not living the life that I am supposed to live. Will you please read the Bible with me and help me to see how to fix this?

8. Bible-thumping zealots crammed it down their throat.

Sometimes we as Christians can become very excited when reading the Bible. The Bible for us is often so clear and concise that we forget that others might not feel the same about it as we do. If we are not careful, we can also become out of control when trying to share it to others. Need we forget the words of Jesus in *Matthew 5:5*, "*Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.*"

Solution: If this has been the case, then please forgive me. Sometimes I get so excited about the Bible that I forget I am still working with people. I am willing to try one more time if you promise to remind me to slow down.

There are many reasons why people will not read Bible like they should. We have covered eight of them.

- 1) It is too large.
- 2) It sometimes appears to be inconsistent to the untrained eye.
- 3) They have already dismissed God as real.
- 4) It condemns them concerning their sins.
- 5) Someone they know might be condemned.
- 6) It contains miracles which defy the present physical world.
- 7) Bible-toting hypocrites turned them off.
- 8) Bible-thumping zealots crammed it down their throat.

Since one cannot become a Christian without the words of this book, then it is our challenge to remove this obstacle and lead them to Jesus. Imagine if everyone you knew would read through the Bible just one time. Do you think their might be some conversions? You bet there would! Make that a goal.