

A Book Worth Reading

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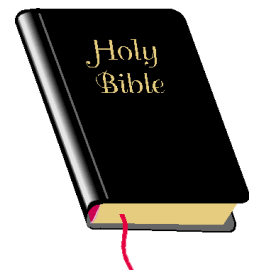
The Association of American Publishers (AAP) each year releases its annual estimate of total book sales in the United States, and for the year 2023 they indicated that U.S. publishers had net sales of \$29.9 billion. That's a lot of books!

What kind of books are people buying? Well, there are novels, "How-To" books, self-improvement books, political books, financial books, cook books, religious books, history books, a whole bunch of "Books for Dummies," and many other books that include just about everything imaginable under the sun that may have an interest to someone.

However, there is one book that has sold more copies than any other book historically over the years. This book's first publication, in the English version occurred around 1500 A.D., and this book prominently has become the "best-selling" book year after year. Current statistics show that 20 million are sold each year. This widely known and purchased book is the Bible.

Just to share a few additional statistics regarding the Bible, on average there are over 100 million Bibles printed each year, and it is projected that there are more than 6 billion Bibles currently in print. An estimated 384,615 Bibles are sold each week, 54,945 sold each day, and 2,289 sold each hour. In addition to the Bibles being sold, another 115,055 are given away or distributed every day! The King James version is still the leading seller of translations, capturing 31% of total sales last year.

Throughout the years the Bible has been tested and challenged by many trying to prove discrepancies and/or inaccuracies. However, as science continues to unearth historic artifacts and test the Bible for accuracies, the Bible continues to prove itself as what it is "the infallible Word of God." and as for those trying to discredit its correctness, many have grown quiet along with their weak unsubstantiated arguments.

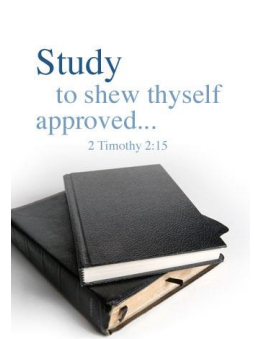


The word Infallible is often associated with the Bible's teachings. What does this word actually mean? Infallible can be defined with these associated words: perfect, foolproof, watertight, reliable, dependable, fail-safe, surefire, and flawless. Knowing this, how can anyone not trust the words that we read within the inspired pages of the Bible? Jesus said, ***"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels"*** (Mark 8:38). The apostle Paul understood this and later wrote to the Romans, ***"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek"*** (Rom. 1:16). We too should not be ashamed of the word of God. It should be our number one desire to let others know of its value, promises, and truths.

God's word instructs us so simply in every aspect of our life. I spent many of my earlier years attending motivational and business seminars. I took notes, bought the workbooks, and tried to apply many of the principles taught in those presentations. Later, as I took a more serious approach to the Bible and its teachings, I found that much of what the speakers were disseminating are biblical principles and teachings sprinkled within

their motivational presentations. I also found that just reading the Bible is motivating enough. How can one not be motivated after reading about how God delivered the children of Israel out of bondage, or how God's providential care provides us with everything we need to survive this world. How much more motivation does someone need after reading about the many mansions in the magnificence of Heaven that awaits the faithful?

Yes, the Bible holds tremendous value, and that is why Solomon said, ***"Buy the truth, and do not sell it"*** (Pro. 23:23). We should read it, study it, understand it, and apply it. We should use the Bible as a mirror; looking into it, we should see ourselves as a mirror image of how it describes a child of God. ***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"*** (2 Tim. 3:16-17).



There is good reason why the Bible is purchased more than any other book. Reading and studying it is the way we can personally be sure of what God expects from us, what He has promised to us, and how He provides for us. If you would like to start and end each day on a positive note, then open your Bible and read.