

Is The Bible Relevant?

I. Our Present State

- ~~59% of 15-34 year olds believe the Bible is relevant to their lives~~
- ~~53% of that group reads the Bible less than once a year . . . or never~~
- ~~80% – faith is very important to them~~
- ~~34% – committed to Christianity~~
- ~~80% want to go to heaven; 34% to church~~

Updated Gallup surveys

20% of Americans: Bible is the actual word of God to be taken literally.

29%: Bible is collection of ‘fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man.’

I. Our Present State

II. Why Do Some
Call The Bible Irrelevant?

1. Bible is old; out of date

- Eating is old (Gn.2:9)
- Work is old (Gn.2:15)
- Love is old (Gn.2:18-24)

Why make this claim?

- Bible interferes with their wants / wishes
- If Bible is out of date, so are morals
- Is love out of date, too?

2. Bible does not address modern issues

Exodus does not connect with our world
of e-mail, space travel...

1 Co.10:1-12

Exodus	Corinth
Jews	Gentiles
Desert	Seaport
Slaves	Free
Ancient	Modern

3. Unbelievers reject the supernatural

- Voltaire
 - 1 Pt.1:25 ...word of the Lord endures forever
- Bible contains the best documented text of any volume in human history
- If we reject the Bible, we must reject all of ancient history
 - Antony Flew

3. Unbelievers reject the supernatural

Antony Flew (2006)

“My one and only piece of relevant evidence [for an Aristotelian God] is the apparent impossibility of providing a naturalistic theory of the origin from DNA of the first reproducing species... [In fact] the only reason which I have for beginning to think of believing in a First Cause god is the impossibility of providing a naturalistic account of the origin of the first reproducing organisms”

3. Unbelievers reject the supernatural

- Voltaire
- Bible contains the best documented text of any volume in human history
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 - Antony Flew
 - Jean Paul Sartre
 - ▶ Acts 17:24-25

4. Other Interests

²⁵ “...choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin” – Hb.11

²⁴ And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!
²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” – Lk.18

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II. Why Do Some Call Bible Irrelevant?

III. Bible Is Relevant When ...

1. We are riddled with guilt

- Gn.37...42:21
- Ro.3:19, guilt
- Ro.3:23, the bad news

The Bible does not leave us there:

Ro.4:7; 6:23

- *The Lessons of History*: 'There never has been a significant example of morality apart from belief in God' – Will / Ariel Durant

2. Marriage is crumbling

- Ps.128:3 ... Ec.9:9
- Misused blessings become curses

Lay right foundation, Mt.19:3-6

Treat spouse as yourself, Mt.7:12

Avoid neglect / selfishness, Ep.5

Love is the key, Ep.5:23-33

3. People disappoint us

- Ps.41:9

- Hb.13:5-6

...no not will I leave you...neither no not will I forsake you...

- How Firm A Foundation (400 # 6):

– The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to
shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

4. Anxiety conquers peace

- Ph.4:6-7
- Col.3:12-17
- Svetlana Alliluyeva

5. Physical difficulties

- Remember Job's *condition ... and God's conclusion*

Ps.23:4 –

Walk
through

Shadow

Evil

6. Death draws near

- We are but tenants and ... shortly the great Landlord will give us notice that our lease has expired – Jefferson
- Ec.3:11, *eternity in their hearts* [capacity for eternal things; we want something to surpass our present existence]

James 4:14, *vapor...*

Why am
I here?

Where am
I going?

What will happen to me
when I die?

Bible is the only thing in
the world that is relevant

Lk.12: full barns...empty life