

Trends

Seven trends in Bible usage among American adults:

- ① About half are "Bible users"—that is, they engage in Bible use at least three to four times a year (pitiful!).
- ② Bible use is higher in the South (55%) and Midwest (49%) than in the Northeast (42%) and West (44%).
- ③ Print versions are preferred (89%) over electronic versions.
- ④ Two-thirds (66%) of Americans express some curiosity to know more about what the Bible says.
- ⑤ Over half (53%) ponder how the Bible applies to their life.
- ⑥ More than half (56%) think reading the Bible positively impacts spiritual growth.
- ⑦ More than half (58%) believe the Bible message has transformed their life.

- via Barna Research

John 6:68: "Then Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? Though hast the words of eternal life.'"

News & Notes

Please pray for Zachary Wallace. He is not faithfully attending services as he should (Heb. 10:24-25). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please keep sister Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. She's an encouragement to all!

Pray for all our members who do not attend regularly. Try to encourage them!

Pray for the African appeal for funds to buy Bibles, songbooks and support faithful preachers' travel expense. Donate if you're able! 1 Jn. 3:17

Another 6.9 earthquake hit the southern Philippines. There have been over 3,000 tremblers since this terrible disaster first hit October 16th. Remember, we are "tools of God's providence" for those in need! Jas. 2:14-17; 1 Jn. 3:1-7

Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

There are many needy saints, including preachers! Can you help?!

Anyone need prayers? Let us know so we can announce it and post it.

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You
have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



God Hath Spoken

Ryan Thomas

If you knew God was speaking directly to you how would you react? Would you ignore Him or turn away? Surely not! Why then are so many filled with a spirit of apathy and rebellion concerning the Bible? We all need to be impressed with the fact God is speaking to us through the Bible. The Hebrew writer says, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (Heb. 1:1-2). What are some conclusions we can draw from this profound statement?

1) **God speaks to us by Christ.** Some say this is impossible since Christ is not literally on the earth today. We can be certain of this fact (Acts 1:9-11; 2:32-33), however, this does not mean He is not speaking to us. We must realize we hear Christ today the same way the Jews heard Moses and the prophets. Recall the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Lk. 16:19-31)? The rich man and Lazarus were both in Hades; Lazarus in place of "comfort" and the rich man in place of "torment." The rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus to his house and warn his five brothers "lest they also come into this place of torment" (v. 28). Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (vs. 29, 31). Was he implying Moses and the prophets were still alive? Of course not, they had been dead for hundreds of years. How then could Moses and the prophets be heard? Folks heard them when they read what they wrote (Acts 13:15, 27; 15:21). Christ is heard today when we read what the inspired New Testament apostles and prophets wrote (Matt. 17:5; Lk. 10:16; 1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Pet. 3:1-2).

2) **What God says to you He says to me.** It is God's will that we all speak the same thing (1 Cor. 1:10). This is why we speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent (1 Pet. 4:11). Religious confusion and division is an absolute certainty when men fail to heed Peter's admonition.

3) **God has said all He is going to say.** God *hath* spoken, thus, He has revealed "all truth" (Jn. 16:13). Since He has already "given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3), nothing supposedly revealed to anyone today pertains to life and godliness. Such "revelations" are an "accursed" gospel (Gal. 1:6-9). The only way to find out what God has said is to read His word, His book—the Bible. How about you? Do you listen to God through His word the Bible? Or, is it hidden to you by the hardness of your own heart? (Matt. 13:13-15; 2 Cor. 4:3-4)