

Live and Live Forever

Introduction – This paper was written by a high school and college mathematics instructor. It was not written or produced by any particular denomination, cult, or religious leader. It is provided free of charge as an expression of God's love for mankind.



There is a book that tells us how to live now and live forever. This book is not hidden or a secret. The Holy Bible is the most popular book in the history of the world. Johannes Gutenberg invented his efficient printing press around A.D. 1440 for the purpose of printing large quantities of the Bible. Rulers and governments have not been able to remove the Bible or its influence. It remains the most important and most widely available book in the world. Bibles are printed in hundreds of languages in many different countries. Today, the Amity Printing Company in Nanjing, China, is the world's largest Bible printer with millions of copies produced and distributed each year. Public schools were established in many countries, including the United States, for the purpose of teaching children to read God's Word. Millions of people are required to use the Bible to take legal oaths and pledges. The Holy Bible is the most respected book of all time and it is widely accepted as being the inspired Word of God. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21 KJV). How can we stand before God and say, "Oh, I had no idea that the Bible was Your Word?"

The Bible was written over a period of approximately fifteen hundred years by some forty writers who were inspired by the Spirit of God. The central theme of the Bible is eternal life through Jesus Christ. God's plan for redemption and eternal life runs all the way from Genesis to Revelation. From the beginning to the end, God's love for mankind is revealed. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV). The integrity of the Old Testament was guarded by the Jewish scribes, who faithfully used exhaustive methods of counting tens of thousands of characters to verify the accuracy of each copy. The Bible is complete with no missing parts, unlike the

works of Shakespeare and other more recent documents. With more than five thousand Greek manuscripts, approximately ten thousand Latin manuscripts, and more than nine thousand other manuscripts, no other ancient document even comes remotely close to the evidence and volume of documentation for the New Testament. All other extensive ancient works are supported by less than seven hundred ancient manuscripts.

There are nearly two thousand prophecies found in the Bible. Many refer to the nation of Israel and to Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Some of the prophecies are yet to be fulfilled. I remember hearing Bible prophecies of the end times when I was a child. For example, the coming cashless society mentioned in Revelation 13: ¹⁶"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." This notion seemed a little distant in 1960, but today, the whole planet is wired and waiting.

The Bible says in Revelation chapter eleven that God will send two prophets who will be killed by the beast on the streets of Jerusalem. ⁹"And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. ¹⁰And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. ¹¹And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them" (Revelation 11:9-11 KJV). More than two thousand years ago, the Bible said that people throughout the world would see this drama unfold in real time. Now, it doesn't even require a sophisticated satellite news network, just a cheap cell phone and social media.

In A.D. 70, the Roman Empire pulverized the City of Jerusalem. Historian Flavius Josephus described the brutal attack of Roman soldiers. They literally had to climb over the bodies of their Jewish victims. The Bible declares that Jerusalem will remain the center of attention and controversy until Christ returns.

There is a person who tells us how to live now and live forever. He rose from the dead and He is the central figure in the history of the world. As a matter of fact, the history of the world and time itself is divided into two parts, based on His coming to the earth. He is the focal point in history. His name is Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. He is the Messiah. He is Emmanuel, God with us. B.C. stands for "before Christ" and A.D. stands for "anno Domini, in the year of the Lord." Modern secular societies are trying to replace B.C. with B.C.E. and A.D. with C.E. While B.C.E. was intended to mean "before the common era," many just read it as "before the Christian era." Similarly, when A.D. is replaced with C.E., it is often read as "the Christian era."

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. The cross is the most recognized symbol in the world. It is the symbol of God's love for mankind and the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. You and I were created to have fellowship with God. "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9 KJV). We were created in His image. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27 KJV). We were not created as robots. Unfortunately, man used his freedom to rebel against God. Man yielded to temptation and traded life for death.

The Bible says that God is holy and righteous. The penalty for sin had to be paid and Jesus paid it all. In obedience to the Father, Christ laid down His life for us. ¹⁷"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father" (John 10:17-18 KJV). "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6 KJV). Salvation cannot be earned by good works. ⁴"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved; ⁶And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:4-9 KJV).

If the Spirit of God is speaking to you today, then today is your day of salvation. Second Corinthians 6:2 says that at just the right time, God heard you. If you cry out to God, He will hear you. On the day of salvation, He will help you. He will send the Holy Spirit to guide you and draw you to Him. Certainly, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation! There is no guarantee of tomorrow. Your heart may become hard and your ears deaf to His call. Today, if you are fortunate enough to hear His voice, I urge you to say yes to Christ and His love.

You can experience a spiritual rebirth today. Romans 10:9 (KJV) says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Will you pray today and begin your journey with Christ? "Lord Jesus, I confess with my mouth today that You are the only begotten Son of the living God. I repent and turn from my sins. I believe that You died on the cross to save me from my punishment and I receive You as Savior and Lord of my life. Please help me to grow in Your fellowship and serve You all the days of my life. I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer today from your heart, then you have become a child of God. You have been born again and your adventure with Christ begins. Read the Bible each day, beginning with the book of John. Talk to God each day and ask for His help. Find a church that loves Jesus, loves people, worships God with enthusiasm, and teaches the Bible. They will help and encourage you on your journey with Christ.

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