

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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## 100 MINUTES

Just when you thought you'd heard everything: A publishing company in Great Britain recently released a book entitled *The 100-Minute Bible*.

According to its author, Michael Hinton, *The 100-Minute Bible* summarizes "every teaching from the Creation to the Revelation" in a format designed to be read in a little more than an hour and a half. The book's official Web site says:

*"The 100-Minute Bible is primarily intended for people who have an interest in Christianity but not the time (nor tenacity!) to read the*

*whole Bible. As the title indicates, most people will only take 100 minutes to read it, making it ideal for an upcoming rail or aeroplane journey."*

I'm not sure which is the more pitiable thought: that someone would be cynical enough to believe that genuine interest could be satisfied in 100 minutes; or that 100 minutes is still a greater chunk of time than many people would be willing to devote.

*The 100-Minute Bible* symbolizes today's instant gratification culture perfectly: "Sure, I'd like to

*know more about God's plan for my salvation, but if it takes longer than an hour and 40 minutes to read about it, I'm outta here."*

Is there any worthwhile activity in life that one could successfully learn about in 100 minutes? What occupation could one master in that time? What skill could one develop? In what field of scholarship could one become educated? Seriously — watching a movie on commercial television takes two full hours. Is the word of God not even worth that much?

When I first heard about *The 100-Minute Bible*, I thought about the exchange Jesus had with Peter, James, and John at Gethsemane on the night He was betrayed. You'll recall that the Master took these three close friends with Him into the depths of the garden as He prayed to the Father.

When He returned to them, they had fallen asleep. Jesus said to the three men, "*What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak*" (Matthew 26:40-41).

Perhaps the flesh has improved some in the past 1975 years: Now we can wait an hour and 40 minutes.

But no longer.

I have the same reaction to the mindset of *The 100-Minute Bible* as I do to that of folks who complain that Sunday worship services — and specifically the sermon — are too long. Are we in so much of a hurry that we can't spare the Lord two hours and fifteen minutes (assuming we bothered to attend Bible study, which for some of us would be an invalid assumption)? Can we not sit and

meditate upon His word for a mere 40 minutes (the usual length of the sermons in the assemblies here)?

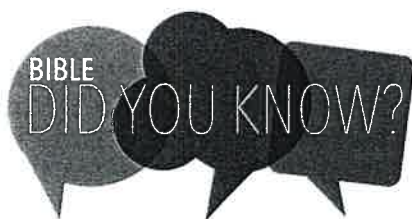
And if the answer to those questions is “No,” what does that say about the quality of our faith, or of our commitment to Christ?

It would seem to me that if God took 1,700 years from Moses to John to inspire His complete revelation to humankind, it deserves more than 100 minutes of someone’s attention. It would also seem that if the Son of God could spend roughly three and a half years on earth, the account of His life deserves more than 100 minutes. If Jesus could spend six hours on a cross dying for the sins of humanity, is it too much to ask that one spend at least that much time reading and reflecting upon what He did?

It’s sad that we live in a world where someone would think a 100-minute summary of the Scriptures would be all the Bible some people would tolerate.

It’s even more sad to know they were right.

– Michael Rankins



***A disciple named Epaphras was instrumental in the conversion and spiritual development of many saints at Colossae. “Just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,” Col. 1:7. “Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God,” Col. 4:12***



# MONTHLY CHALLENGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

## 1) Cup of Cold Water Challenge

*Matt. 10:42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."*

As we get into the heart of the summer months, things are starting to heat up! While the cool air of Spring can be ideal conditions for working outdoors, being outside in the heat for any kind of labor can be brutal! "...you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day," Mt. 20:12. Let's keep our eye on those working outdoors and offer a cold cup of water where we can. Jesus said by our service of love all would recognize us as disciples of Jesus. As we see the garbage man collecting our trash, offer some water and a word of thanks. When we see the neighbor mowing or working in their garden or flowerbeds, provide a refreshing drink. Who knows, perhaps it could open the door where we are able to provide something even more refreshing of eternal importance.

## 2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

### *2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5*

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge."