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## YOU ARE IN THE BIBLE

The last book of the Bible was written about 96 A.D. Since then, we have had 66 books of the Bible (39 Old Testament books, 27 New Testament books) that provide us with God's guidance and establish and strengthen our faith (Rom. 10:17; Jude 3; II Tim. 3:16-17). However, after 2000 years, folks call the Bible "outdated," "unrealistic," and the like. Some folks wonder how we can make applications to our lives when using the Bible. Yet, as we study the Bible, it becomes clear that we can't *help* but apply the Scriptures to ourselves! What do I mean by saying, "You are in the Bible"? I know your name is probably not in the Bible. However, God, in His providence, saw down the stream of time and inspired men to write things that apply to us today (II Pet. 1:20-21). Therefore, by necessary inference, we *are* in there! Let

us look at some examples of the fact that you and I *are* in the Bible. **Galatians 3:26-29**. Yes, this book is addressed *to* the Galatian Christians (Gal. 1:2). At the same time, this book is written *for* us! When one becomes a Christian (i.e., a child of God by faith, v. 26), it is because this person has been baptized into Christ (v. 27). In becoming Christ's, we also are "*Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise*" (v. 29). What promise is this? It is the promise God made to Abraham in Genesis (see: Gal. 3:16)! In other words, when someone becomes a Christian, he becomes the "*seed of Abraham*" and fulfills God's promise that Abraham's seed would be "*as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies*" (Gen. 22:17). Just think, every time one becomes

a Christian, he takes his place in a promise God made so long ago. If you are a Christian (Acts 2:38, 11:26), you are a part of this promise. *You* are in the Bible! **II Timothy 2:2** Similar to the Galatian letter, though this letter was written *to* Timothy (1:2), what was written was written *for* us! In reading this Scripture, we see a progressive line of thought. Let us read this carefully and note the progression. *"The things that thou hast heard of me ...."* The apostle Paul taught Timothy (Acts 16:1-5; etc.), so the *"me"* in this verse is Paul. Where did Paul get his knowledge? He got it from Christ (Gal. 1:12). Therefore, what Christ taught him, he taught Timothy. *"The same commit thou to faithful men ...."* Now that Timothy had heard and obeyed the truth, he needed to be active in teaching others (I Cor. 4:17; I Thess. 3:2-3; I Cor. 16:10). Just as Timothy would be able to take the gospel to lost souls, so also, he needed to prepare people to spread the gospel to places he could not go. *"Who shall be able to teach others also...."* This phrase shows how the "cycle" continues. Those Timothy taught needed to be able to teach *"others"* so those folks could teach *"others"* and so on. Therefore, the same thing

taught in the first century reaches to this present day! Thus, the need for our generation to teach *"others"*! We are a "link" in the chain that will continue to grow until the end of time. *We* are in **II Timothy 2:2! Matthew 5:32, 19:9.** Though some folks have said that these passages apply only to those under the Law of Moses, Jesus applied it to people who were going to be living under the New Covenant when He said, *"whosoever."* These verses apply to every person in every era and in every society since the New Testament took effect (Col. 2:14; Heb. 9:15-16). For those who insist that Jesus' words were spoken to somehow "correct" those under the Old Testament, how do we explain that Jesus' statement concerning marriage (without the "exception") is repeated in Romans 7? Suppose Christ intended for what He said to be applied only to those living under Moses' Law. Why then did the apostle Paul teach this to the Romans who were living after the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and subject to the New Covenant (law of Christ, Gal. 6:2)? No, Christ's law for marriage was not something given to "correct" those living in Old Testament days. It is for us today. You are in these verses



# 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) Praying For Others Challenge

**James 5:16** *"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."* Prayer can turn night into day, and can change the worst of circumstances into amazing blessings. There are so many areas where our prayers can make a difference. We can pray for one another. "Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondservant 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. We can pray for our enemies. "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," Matt. 5:44. We can pray for those we wish to share the gospel with. "Praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word," Col. 4:3. There are so many areas where prayer is the difference maker. Devote this month to praying diligently in these specific areas and watch God clear pathways to make progress. "I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert," Is. 43:19.

## 2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

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

**Titus 3:3-8**

"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men."

if you are married or are contemplating marriage. This command concerning marriage continues to this present day!

**Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21** So long as one person is living in sin upon this earth, the Lord's plan of salvation is in force. It demands that we believe in Christ and be baptized so we can be saved from our sins. There is no other way. If you are in sin, you are in these verses because they reveal what is necessary to be saved. If you are already saved from sin, then you are in these verses, for these are the passages you can use to show others how you became saved.

**Conclusion.** These passages are just a sampling that shows us the providence of God and how God's word applies to us today. The Bible is not antiquated or outdated. It is a relevant, vibrant book. It is *"living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword"* (Heb. 4:12, ASV), whose principles are just as needed and as up-to-date as the day they were penned. What other Bible passages apply to you? (me?) Study and learn!

Yes, you are in the Bible! – Jarrod Jacobs. **Fear Of Truth.** My daughter's friend expressed great interest in the doctrine of "Premillennialism." It so happened that I was at that time engaged in a series of

studies involving the subject on a television program. My daughter suggested to her friend that she might tune in, watch, and listen. Her friend said, "Is he for it or against it?" When informed I was opposed to it, my daughter's friend said, "In that case, I don't want to hear it!" There are many who feel the same way. They refuse to hear or read anything contrary to their preconceived beliefs and practices lest they find their cherished idols to be mortal delusions. On the other hand, truth has nothing to fear from investigation. Like pure silver, the more you rub it, the more it shines. It is said that "a philosopher of Florence could not be persuaded to look through one of Galileo's telescopes lest he should see something in the heavens that would disturb him in his belief of Aristotle's philosophy" (Buck). So it is with many; they fear testing their beliefs by the word of God lest they find them to be untrue. – James W. Adams

**A Thought Concerning The Strength Of The Church ...**

"Remember, the *church* increases its strength *one member at a time!* you are responsible for *your* strength in Christ Jesus. How strong are *you?*" - Ekim Sivad **A Thought Worth Thinking ...** "No man is too wicked to go to church! No man is too righteous to stay away!" - Claude Davis