

QUESTIONS

2. What is the name you wrote down for question 1?

3. Why is this person so special?
 - a. He is both man and God
 - b. He is the fulfillment of all that is written in the Bible
 - c. He will never let me down
 - d. All of the above
4. How many books are there in the Old Testament?

5. Jesus said that he did not come to abolish the _____ and the prophets. (fill in the blank)
6. What was the name of the brother of Jesus who wrote in the New Testament?

7. Will Biblical knowledge alone save a person?

YES / NO
8. Can a person be saved apart from knowing what the Bible says?

YES / NO

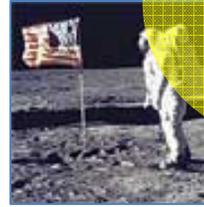
(Question #8 is a thought question for the next part of this discussion.)

Factoids:

- "Bible" comes from the Greek word for "Book" (βιβλίον)
- The word "testament" refers to the revealed will of God.
- The Old Testament was based upon law and the New Testament is based upon grace. (John 1:17)

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LIFE-SEARCH



But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 4:29

A LOOK INTO THE HEART OF GOD THROUGH THE STUDY OF HIS WORD

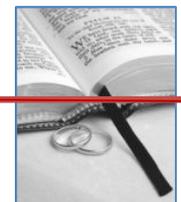
Part One

The Fulfillment of Scripture

- ✚ Do you have doubts about the existence of God?
- ✚ Do you feel that you are alone in this world?
- ✚ Aren't you still just a little curious as to why so many people still find hope and joy in the promises of God?

This is one of a 12 part series of leaflets that is offered free and without obligation for you to look at in your own home and in your own time. Right up front we must tell you that this is a work of men and that even the best of us will let you down eventually and therefore do not expect to find perfection here. We can, however, recommend one who is both man and God who will never, ever let you down. We would like to introduce Him to you and not ourselves. It is our desire to share His life and His love with you and there is no better way to do that than to get you to open the Book of Life, the Bible. If you do not have a copy of the Bible we will gladly supply you with one, at no cost to you. In the meantime, if you want to proceed, we also want you to know that we will be asking you questions as we go along, and here is the first.

1. Please write the name of the person who we have been talking about on the red line.



Of course you know His name, but did it feel strange to be writing it across the picture of the Bible? Hopefully you will understand why we had you do that but right now let's look at something He said to a group of important people who actually rubbed elbows with Him.

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. John 5:39,40

It is important to know that a person cannot have eternal life apart from knowledge of Jesus but that a person can have knowledge of Jesus and yet not have eternal life. It is a bit like having a car in the driveway that you keep clean and perhaps spend time sitting in. You check the gas gauge and other instruments and like to start the engine up and listen to it purring. You make sure you have maps for all the places you would like to go, but you never put the car in gear and go! In fact when the automobile maker comes and tries to get you going you are terrified by him and do anything you can to get rid of him.

There were others who rubbed elbows with Jesus who came to grasp this but even they would struggle staying faithful to Him from time to time. Jesus had a brother called James and we believe it is this James who writes in the New Testament and says,

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (James 1:22-25)

The scriptures that Jesus said spoke of Him would have been the Old Testament writings and yet his name is not mentioned once in all of those 39 books. As we continue this thought we will be looking into the fact that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Bible and therefore the key to understanding the Bible and finding hope in this life. Let's look at some more important biblical passages that will draw us deeper and deeper into the story of Life.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

Matthew 5:17

Jewish people often referred to the Old Testament as “the law and the prophets”. Basically the Law was the basis for their whole existence and the prophets were the ones sent by God to warn them that they were not keeping it and what God was planning to do about it. The Old Testament is fulfilled by Jesus in the same way that a prescription is fulfilled by the medicine it prescribes. The Jewish leaders loved being the ones to read and interpret the prescription (scriptures) but when the medicine, Jesus, arrived they rejected Him.



See how that works? You cannot get the medicine without the prescription but the prescription cannot heal you on its own.

Of course there are many people today who are consistent in that they reject the medicine (Jesus) and the prescription (scriptures). Very often they have witnessed the hypocrisy of those who “talk the talk but don't walk the walk” so they do not want anything to do with Christianity.

As it goes with the Church, so goes it with the World.

Even though we humans can sympathize with that reasoning it is not an excuse that God will accept. In fact God says there are no excuses:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:18-21

If hypocrisy was an acceptable reason to write off the Church then God would have written off the Church a long time ago. If He had done that, however, He would have ended the world altogether because as it goes with the Church, so goes it with the World. That is something we will talk about in a later discussion, LORD willing.