

The Bible is Trustworthy Proverbs 3:1-18

Proverbs 3:1-18 (NLT) – Trusting in the Word of the Lord (The Bible)

¹ My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart.	Wisdom
² If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying.	<i>Benefit</i>
³ Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.	Wisdom
⁴ Then you will find favor with both God and people , and you will earn a good reputation.	<i>Benefit</i>
⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.	Wisdom
⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.	Wisdom/Benefit
⁷ Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.	Wisdom
⁸ Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.	<i>Benefit</i>
⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.	Wisdom
¹⁰ Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.	<i>Benefit</i>
¹¹ My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you.	Wisdom
¹² For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.	Benefit/ Wisdom
¹³ Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding.	<i>Benefit/Wisdom</i>
¹⁴ For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold.	<i>Benefit</i>
¹⁵ Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.	Wisdom
¹⁶ She offers you long life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left.	<i>Benefit</i>
¹⁷ She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying.	Wisdom/Benefit
¹⁸ Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly.	Wisdom/Benefit

The Bible Benefits and Blessings

1. The Bible records the life and teachings of Jesus.
2. The Bible teaches us about the core components and core needs of being a human.
3. The Bible speaks through direct teachings, accounts, and narratives about the importance of love in your life.
4. The Bible is the source for primacy of marriage and its purpose, blessing, and significance.
5. The Bible is the source for the family including its purpose, blessing, and significance and the "how to" for raising children.

The Bible's historical preservation and accuracy are trustworthy.

The Documentary Evidence is staggering compared to other "trusted" works.

- We have all or portions of 24,000 manuscripts of the Bible **dating back to the 1st Century.**
 - 981 Texts dating from the 3rd Century BC to 1st Century AD found in the Dead Sea Scrolls.
 - 5,664 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament
 - 8,000+ Latin manuscripts called the Latin Vulgate
 - 8,000+ Ethiopic, Slavic and Armenian manuscripts
- By Comparison
 - Homer's *Iliad* – written circa 800 BC, we have 650 manuscripts starting from the 2nd and 3rd century AD.
 - Tacitus' *Annals of Imperial Rome* – written circa 116 AD, we have 1 manuscript copy from circa 850 AD.
 - Flavius Josephus's *Books of the History of the Jewish War against the Romans* – written circa 75 AD, we have 9 Greek copied manuscripts dating from the 1,000-1,200 AD.
- The Bible Manuscripts are 99.5% the same with some small variations.
 - Pagans (and some people who profess to be Christians) seek to dismantle the Bible because of this.
- So where do the manuscripts vary?
- And how significant are the variations?

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- **The Lord's prayer recorded in Matthew 6:9-13 (NASB 1995)**

- ⁹ "Pray, then, in this way:
'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name
¹⁰ 'Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ 'Give us this day our daily bread.
¹² 'And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ^[a][For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.']

⁹ "Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ 'Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ 'Give us this day ^[a]our daily bread.

¹² 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from ^[b]evil. ^[c][For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever

FOOTNOTE

¹⁴ For if you forgive ^[b]others for their transgressions,

¹⁵ But if you do not forgive ^[b]others, then your Father

This clause not found in early mss

re you.

- **Does this devotional addition change the meaning or the accuracy of the Bible?**

- **John 8:3-11 (NASB 1995)**

- ³ [The scribes and the Pharisees *brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, ⁴ they *said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. ⁵ Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" ⁶ They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. ⁷ But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him *be the* first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ When they heard it, they *began* to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court. ¹⁰ Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."]
- *"Interestingly enough, the earliest manuscripts of the Gospel of John do not contain this beloved passage. Indeed, the first manuscript to contain the story is from around 400 C.E. Around 4% of Greek manuscripts that include the passage place it in locations other than John 8:1-11; the earliest of these is from around the ninth and tenth centuries C.E. This perplexing manuscript history fuels debates about whether the story was originally in John's Gospel and, if so, where."¹*

The Bible is Trustworthy as the main source for life Wisdom and is a sure source for Truth.

- The Bible answers and speaks to the three main existential questions everyone has:
 - Where did I come from?
 - Why am I here?
 - What happens (where do I go) when life is over?

The Proactive Life

I was ...
Created by God
To Know Him and Enjoy Him
Forever

The 13 Hardest Chapters of the Bible for most people to accept:

- **Genesis Chapters 1-7** – The Creation by God, Marriage, Sin, Personal Responsibility for Actions
- **John 14** – Jesus Christ – the Savior (*Messiah*) of the World; Holy Spirit – God's presence in our lives today
- **Revelation 18-22** – The Fall of Babylon, followed by the First Hallelujah of the New Testament, and then the Great White Throne Judgment of God (Personal accountability for actions)

The Two Decisions:

1. Do I want to **Walk with God**? (Do I prefer to agree with the pagans that the pleasing of self is paramount?)
2. Will I **embrace and receive the Kingship of Christ** in my life?

¹ <https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/passages/related-articles/Manuscript-History-and-John>