

Hierarchy. The apostle Paul said, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Tim. 2:5)

- 5. Matthew recorded the command of Christ to "Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 23:9)
- 6. The teaching of the apostles came from heaven and is not subject to any change, whereas, the teaching of the Catholic Church is from men and is continually changing. The apostle Paul said, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8) He further emphasized this statement in the very next verse wherein he declared, "As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."
- 7. The apostles taught and emphasized the fact that the only source of Divine Authority is the Bible. The apostle John set forth the all sufficiency of the written word when he said, "Many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of .God, and that believing ye might have life through his name?' (John 20:30,31; cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3)
- 8. Binding man-made traditions is specifically condemned by the Lord in Matthew 15:6 and Mark 7:1-13. Moreover, the Bible contains everything that is necessary to know in order to be saved from past sins; to live the Christian life and be saved eternally. (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18,19)
- 9. The only authentic record of what Christ and the apostles taught is found in the Bible, and nowhere in this Book is any mention made of the Catholic Church, The Roman Catholic Church, The Roman Catholic Hierarchy, or officials of this organization such as the Pope, Cardinals, and Archbishops.
- 10. Christ had no successors; neither did the apostles. The only way to hear the voice of God is through the Bible (Matt. 28:18-20; 2 John 9:11).

 $-The\ Gospel\ Guardian,$  May 28, 1953, slightly adapted

## Why You and Your Kids Should Carry a Print Bible

I see increasingly less people carrying print Bibles. I myself use electronic devices regularly to study the Scriptures, so I understand they have their place and are great tools. But let me share seven reasons why you should have a personal print Bible that you still carry to church and read at home.

<u>You can love a print Bible.</u> No one will hold up an iPad at your funeral and talk about how much you loved your Bible app. A print Bible is something you become emotionally attached to as you carry it for years. It guides you through the ups-and-downs of life. It is a source of strength and hope. You grow to love its feel, pages, and wear.

**It is more "sacred."** We understand the cover and paper are not holy, but the message. But there is just something more special about reading from a print Bible. It is valuable to have a book dedicated solely to the purposes of God. A beautiful leather-covered Bible invites you to be reverent and respectful because you are "standing on holy ground."

**It is free from distractions.** The challenge of using your phone or tablet is the constant notifications that you receive. Consider the teenager who carries their phone versus a print Bible to class, which method is going to create more distraction when their mind should be on God? A print Bible removes the temptation to check that email or Facebook notification. Apps themselves often have advertisements or notifications that can be distracting.

<u>You learn more about the whole Bible and the context of your Scripture.</u> In a Bible app you don't get a feel for the entire book. With a print Bible, when you open to Genesis you know you are in the beginning of the book. You have a better overall context. You learn about the books of the Bible by flipping and gain a distinction between the Old and New Testaments. You have a better feel for the entire story of Scripture.

<u>You can take notes in your print Bible.</u> Yes, I know apps allow some notetaking as well, but they aren't as permanent. My wife loves to underline and write notes throughout her Bible. You can highlight or note other Scriptures that relate.

<u>It works better with your mind to help memorize locations and Scriptures.</u> Our minds have a photographic component. They will remember words and Scriptures in a certain place. As you use the Bible, you begin to memorize the location of a verse or topic. You may not know the exact verse, but you can locate it, because you remember reading it and where it was found.

**It makes a statement to yourself and others.** A print Bible makes a statement to yourself of your purpose in picking up the book. If carrying it to the church building, it says to you and others, we are going to study and worship God. Reading a Bible can even be an evangelistic opportunity when in public, often prompting questions. It is a way to start a conversation about faith and conviction, but if you are reading on an electronic device, they don't even know you are in God's word.

I hope you will consider these seven reasons. I hope you will start carrying your old Bible again or purchase a new one. Also, let me appeal to you to purchase each of your children a Bible. Make them carry it to the church building and use it in their classes. They need to know how to use a print Bible and be encouraged to fall in love with God's word. —Josh Ketchum, slightly adapted