

THE ESSENCE OF THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES TO HUMANITY

By: Dr. Isaac K. Damoah

Abstract

The study adopted explanatory research design, the research strategy used was cross-sectional survey, the research approach used was qualitative research approach, the population of the study was 10 authors, the source of collecting data for the study was primary source, the method of collecting data was research, the sampling design were research into research papers by journals and the various websites. The problem statement of the study was "The essence of the study of the scriptures to humanity", the background of the study was brief introduction of the scriptures; the objectives of the study was achieved. The study indicated the importance of the study of the scriptures both to Christians and non Christians, the transforming power of the scriptures, various Christians' views about the scriptures and the reasons why people don't study the scriptures. The study generalized that the scriptures assist to acquire an in-depth knowledge about God, the nature of man, the universe and capable to transform the life of man to be like Christ. The study recommended that ministers of God ought to teach their congregation to cultivate the habit of studying

the scriptures, organize quiz for their churches to motivate them to study the scriptures, organize play for their churches to value personal Bible study and educate the public to understand the reasons why the scriptures were written to man.

Background of the study

Introduction

The word "Bible" is derived from the Greek word called "Biblia", meaning "little books". The Bible consists of 66 books written by 40 different authors. It is Christians who use the Bible and we believe that the Bible was written in the inspiration of God. The Bible is divided into two testaments namely "The Old Testament" and "The New Testament".

Objectives of the studying

To find out the significance of the study of the scriptures

To find out various Christians' views about the scriptures

To find out the proof of the transforming power of the scriptures

Available at www.ijred.com

To find out the reasons why people don't study the scriptures

The significance of the study of the scriptures

Education: The Bible is good for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness (2Timothy 3:16-17). Through this, children and servants of God become prepared for His ministry.

Revelation: The Bible teaches us to know and understand the nature of God. Through Bible study, we have known that God is holy, unchangeable, faithful, gracious and loving.

Spiritual growth: When we study the Bible, it helps to us grow in the knowledge of God (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:14-16).

The nature of man: The Bible enables us to understand the nature of man based on the descriptions and stories of people who dwelled on the earth for two - four millennia ago.

The culture of the Jews: The Bible helps to understand the culture of the Hebrew people including the rise and fall of Jewish kingdom.

Origin: The Bible explains how the world came into being, the origin of man and how the things in the world were created.

Jesus Christ: The Bible gives us detail information about the virgin birth of Jesus, the

purpose of His earthly ministry, the kind of life He lived on the earth, His nature, death, resurrection and ascension.

Fellowship: The Bible portrays God's desire to fellowship with man (Leviticus 26:12). This assist us to understand perfect relationship Adam and Eve had with God. Satan deceived them to disobey the word of God and he broke their relationship with Him (Romans 5:1-11;18-19).

Purpose: The Bible teaches us to know the purpose of our lives on the earth and God's plan for us right from the beginning through eternity (1Peter 2:9; Ephesians 2:10).

Life: The words of the Bible are life and Spirit. If we believe in the Bible, our souls get connected to God (1Peter 1:23; Hebrews 4:12). Through our faith in the Bible, we become sanctified in the sight of God

Power: When we study the word of God, it gives us spiritual strength to overcome sin (Ephesians 5:26; 2Corinthians 5:26).

Obedience: The Bible enables us to know the purpose and the will of God. This helps us to submit ourselves to Him (Psalms 119:9-11).

Mediation: If we ponder on the word of God, we become blessed (Joshua 1:8; James 1:25). The Bible gives guidelines on success and makes us to be wise (Psalms 119:1).

Available at www.ijred.com

Eternity: All the things in the universe shall pass away including the world itself but His word endures forever (Isaiah 40:8; Psalms 119:160; Matthew 24:35).

Imitation: If we study the Bible daily, we are able to follow the footsteps of Christ (Ephesians 5:1).

Directions: The Bible gives directions which set man free from bondage (Psalms 119:105).

Transformation: Through Bible studies, our minds become convinced and the Holy Spirit gradually changes our live into the image of Christ (Romans 12:1-2)

Various Christians' views about the scriptures

As Christians, we believe that the Bible is holy and written in the inspiration of God. We follow the teachings of the Bible as the source of our spiritual life and give ourselves to Jesus' teachings in order to gain the moral perfection of God. There are three groups of Christians namely Lliteralist Christians, Conservative Christians and Liberal Christians.

Lliteralist Christians: This group of Christians believe that the Bible is the true messages from God.

Conservative Christians: These Christians accept that it is man who write the Bible in the inspiration of God. They follow

the teachings of the Bible but don't accept every word as the true message from God

Liberal Christians: These Christians accept the words of the Bible as men's thoughts about God. They interpret the Bible to suit the lifestyle of the modern society.

Thesis statement: The problem statement was to find out the essence of the study of the scriptures to humanity. The study found out the significance of the study of the scriptures, various christians' views about the scriptures, the transforming power of the scriptures and the reasons why people don't study the scriptures

Literature review

There are a lot of writers who have expressed their views about the Bible but the study is limited to the essence of the study of the Bible to humanity. Due to this, the study found out the articles written concerning the essence of the study of the Bible to humanity. Vince Miller wrote an article entitled "Why studying scriptures is important in life". He stated the importance of the scriptures to man as follows:

- The Bible teaches us to see the need not to follow the patterns of this world. This help us to renew our minds to tune to the voice of God and set ourselves apart to Him (Romans 12:1-2).

Available at www.ijred.com

- The Bible enables us to obtain eternal salvation through faith in Christ

- The Bible assists us to know the mind, purpose and the will of God and teaches us to learn to be wise.

- Through Bible study, the Holy Spirit opens our minds to understand the word of God (John 14:17).

- The Bible transforms us into the image of Christ

- The Bible educates us to know that we shall give an account of our deeds to God

- Through Bible study, we experience the presence of God. During Bible study, He reveals Himself to us in His word. In January 14, 2019 Jstults wrote an article entitled "6 more benefits of studying God's word". He stated the relevance of the word of God as follows: The scriptures impart life to man both spiritual and physical (Matthew 4:4; John 20:30-31; 1Peter 1:23). When we study the scriptures, it builds our faith in Christ and helps us to develop the mind of Christ (1Peter 2:2; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 5:12-13). If we study the scriptures well, we can assist new converts to establish in the Lord (1Peter 3:15-16; 2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Timothy 2:15). When we fill with the word of God, we are able to reject evil thought and defeat the strategies of Satan (Ephesians 5:17). 'Through Bible studies, we enjoy the peace of God and have hope in

the future (Philippians 4:8-9; Romans 15:4). With respect to what the authors had written, the study found the significance of the study of the scriptures, various Christians' views about the scriptures, the proof of the transforming power of the scriptures and the reasons why people don't study the scriptures.

The transforming power of the scriptures

The Thessalonians church:: The church at Thessalonica believed the word Paul delivered to them as the genuine word of God and the word changed their lives.

Jesus' prayer: Jesus Christ prayed to God that He should sanctify His disciples through His word (John 17:17). We become pure when we allow ourselves for His word to control us. His word is the tool to transform our spirits, souls and bodies (Hebrews 4:12).

Pauline witness: Apostle Paul declared that the scriptures are Christians' source of transforming power that shape our lives to be like Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16).

The transformation difference: The transforming power of the scriptures is when we believe and depend on the scriptures and God replaces our corrupt lives with eternal perfect life of Jesus Christ.

Prison experience: Paul and Silas were imprisoned and beaten. While they were in

Available at www.ijred.com

prison, they sang praises to God but the prison doors opened. The prisoners never run away and the prison officer searched for Paul and Silas. He found them in the prison yard but he became astonished at Paul and Silas. Through this, the prison officer and his family became Christians but they were baptized in the name of the three persons of the Trinity.

Message of deliverance: Through depending on the scriptures, many people are saved from both spiritual and physical problems. The scriptures raises the honor and right of every man on the earth.

Jesus Christ: The scriptures help us to understand that the prophets in the Old Testament Bible predicted about the coming of Christ. The New Testament witnesses concerning His personality and His earthly ministry.

Connection: If we study the scriptures, it will build our relationship with God. Our souls have access to communicate with God.

Understanding: Bible studies deepen our understanding about the things of God. This helps us to perceive the deceptions of the Devil.

Future: When we rely on the scriptures, it shapes our future to be bright and the end of our lives will be good.

Ministry: If ministers of God study the scriptures well, it will give them power to impart sound Biblical teachings.

Spiritual food: The scriptures are food to our souls that make us to become spiritual in the Lord.

Reasons why people don't study the Bible

Religious: Many people feel it is Christians who have to study the scriptures so those who are not Christians have no zeal to study the scriptures.

White men: Others believe that the white men brings the scriptures to deceive Africans.

Laziness: A lot of people feel lazy to study the scriptures.

Boring: Some people don't have interest in studying the scriptures. Due to this, Bible study becomes boring to such people.

Problem of understanding: Many people study the scriptures but they don't understand many passages in the scriptures.

Methodology

Introduction

This chapter covers research design, research strategy, research approach, population of the study, the sampling design, the source and acquisition of data. The research design used to write this paper was explanatory research

design. Through explanatory research design, the objectives of the study were achieved. The research strategy used was cross sectional survey where a number of authors were chosen as a case study. The research approach adopted was qualitative research approach. With qualitative research approach the study found out the importance of the study of the scriptures to mankind. The population of the study were authors who had written articles about the topic under study. The sampling design used was articles written at the various websites. The source and acquisition of data were primary source and consultation of articles at the various websites.

Sampling design

Articles published at various website and journal articles were considered.

Population of the study

10 authors were the population of the study.

Method of data collection

The source of data for writing this paper was primary source and the method of collecting data was research into published articles.

Summary of findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary of findings

The study found out the significance of the study of the scriptures to humanity, various

christians' views about the scriptures, the reasons why people don't study the scriptures and the transforming power of the scriptures.

Conclusion

The study discovered that the scriptures helps to acquire an in-depth knowledge about God, understand nature, build man's relationship with God, transform the life of man into the image of Christ. Due to the above mentioned points the study generalized that the study of the scriptures is significantly important to man.

Recommendations

Teachings

Ministers of God should teach their congregation to understand the need to study the scriptures. They must let the individual members of congregation to know that they can't be powerful Christians without being filled with the word of God.

Organize play

Ministers of God should organize play for their churches to realize the importance of the study of the scriptures.

Quiz

Ministers of God ought to organize quiz for their churches to motive them to study the scriptures

Evangelism

Ministers of God should educate the public to understand that the scriptures were written in the inspiration of God and inform the public about God's purpose of writing the scriptures for mankind. This program could be done through the new media such as newspapers, radio, television etc. Through this, they can send the message across the country.

Acknowledgement

I thank the Almighty God for helping me to write this paper. May His name be glorified. Thanks are due to the authors of the various research papers I consulted. Had it not been their assistance this paper would not have been published. To you all, I say God should protect you from the evil one.

REFERENCE

Diffey, D. (May 23, 2019), "The importance of reading the Bible", <https://www.gou.edu/blog/Theology>

Biblica, (n.d), "Why is the bible important", <https://www.biblica.com>

The Bible, (n.d), "How different Christians tradition regards the bible" <https://www.bbc.co.uk>

Newspringchurch, (n.d), "10 reasons to read the Bible", <https://newspringchurch.cc>

Available at www.ijsred.com

Vince Miller, (n.d), "Why studying scriptures is important in a man's life", beresolute.org

Inhissteps, (September 9, 2020), "The transforming power of God's word", <https://www.inhissteps.org>

Members, (n.d), "Five reasons why the Bible is the most important book on earth", members.pt.org

Confidentofthis, (n.d), "6more benefits of studying God's", www.confidentofthis.co



Dr. Isaac K. Damoah