



Uncompromising with Truth

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WHEN HAS  
IT BEEN  
NECESSARY  
FOR YOU TO  
ADAPT OR  
ADJUST?

The  
**POINT** ➤

When it comes to biblical truth about Christ,  
there is no room for compromise.

## ➤ REVELATION 2:12-17

<sup>12</sup>“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

<sup>13</sup>“I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. <sup>14</sup> But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup> Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the

sword of my mouth. <sup>17</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’



# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## FACT:

Of course, you know that chameleons can change color. But do you know how they do it? Underneath the top layer of skin is a layer of crystals that they can turn or manipulate to reflect light differently.<sup>1</sup>



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // BIBLE

The Bible consists of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments and is the only inspired written Word of God.

Chameleons are fascinating little creatures. If you place a chameleon on a patch of green grass, it will begin to turn green. If it's on a brown tree branch, it will turn—you guessed it—brown. We all know that chameleons change colors to blend in. It's their way of adapting to their environment. They also change colors to warm up or cool down to communicate fear or anger. These are all ways of adapting to or interacting with their environments.

It's not only chameleons who are adaptable—people are, as well. Sometimes, being adaptable is necessary. The past year has been a huge lesson in adapting to change, as many students throughout the US have been required to adjust to online learning, ever-changing schedules, and more.

Other types of adaptability, however, are altogether unhealthy. Some people are like chameleons, and in whatever situation or environment they may find themselves, they take on the “color” of their surroundings. Their thinking and behavior tend to blend in and look like the world around them.

For followers of Jesus, our true color should never be compromised. We have been called to live a life devoted to Jesus and to never compromise the truth of who He is and who we are in Him. The church at Pergamum compromised their faith in Christ by becoming like those around them. As a result, Jesus gave them a harsh correction.

## REVELATION 2:12-13

**1** What does a faithful witness look like today?

**2** What are some temptations Christians face living in a non-Christian culture?

## REVELATION 2:14-15

**3** What are the consequences of compromise when it comes to biblical truth?

**4** What kinds of dangers or consequences do we face when we believe something that isn't true?

**5** How can we determine whether a teaching or teacher is false?

## REVELATION 2:16-17

**6** Why are Christians sometimes tempted to believe the lies of the world?

**7** How does God's Word act as a sharp, double-edged sword?

**8** When have you seen someone refuse to compromise on biblical truth?



*We are called to Christlikeness, purity, sacrifice, and holiness—compromise can never be a part of a believer's life when it comes to the truth of Christ. #BSFLtheChurch*





# LIVE IT OUT



## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // BIBLE

*The Bible consists of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments and is the only inspired written Word of God.*

Scripture is the inspired Word of God. It has been literally “breathed out” by the Holy Spirit and is the means by which God reveals Himself, as well as His purposes for the world and for us. Those who trust in any other sources of wisdom are guilty of the same sins as the church in Pergamum. We can know God and His will only through the Scriptures.

## >CHRIST

To follow Jesus requires that we believe every word of the Bible, trust it, and live it out in our daily lives.

**9** How are you sometimes tempted to compromise the Bible’s teachings?

**10** When have you taken a stand because of your faith in Christ?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

**BIBLE**

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY  
& WORLD



## ➤ COMMUNITY

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Christians are called to hold one another accountable.

**11** If you know someone who is stepping into false teaching or compromise, lovingly confront that person and urge him or her to come back to the truth of Christ. Let God use you in the life of another, but it's important to do so by "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15).



## ➤ CULTURE

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We live in a culture that demands us to be tolerant. While it is important that we recognize others' rights to think and choose for themselves, tolerance in our culture often translates as acceptance or even approval. Scripture is clear—while truly loving all people, we must stand against sin.

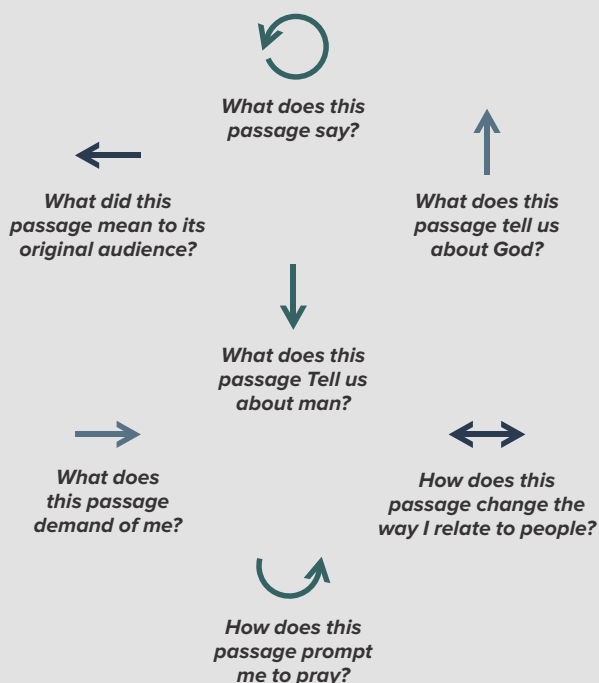
**12** How are you standing for truth in ways that go against culture?

**13** How will you leverage this to help others see the truth of the gospel?

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



## Day One

## 2 TIMOTHY 3:12-13

We live in a world that is broken by the curse of sin. There are times in our lives when things may go smoothly. However, for us to never expect to face hardship is simply unrealistic. Further, because the world hates Jesus and all that He stands for, when we follow Christ, the world will hate us too (John 15:18-19). In this passage, Paul clearly says to Timothy (and to us) that everyone who follows Jesus will be persecuted. Further, worldly people will try to convince us that to follow God's truth is wrong. We see it all around us—Christians are labeled as hateful and bigoted when we stand for God's standards concerning abortion, sexual sins, family, and more. We must not be deceived. If we want to experience God's blessings in our lives, we must know the truth and devote ourselves to living by it.

➤ **Why do worldly people persecute Christians?**

➤ **Why is it so important that we know what the Bible teaches, specifically in regard to controversial or sensitive topics?**

## Day Two

# 2 TIMOTHY 3:14

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It is not enough simply to know Scripture—we must live by it. Further, we must live according to God’s standards every day of our lives. It is likely most of us have known people who claimed to love Jesus, but after some time, they fell away and back into a worldly lifestyle. True disciples will continue in what they have learned. There may be times when we are tempted to give up, particularly when life is difficult or when we face persecution. However, if our hearts have been truly changed and the Holy Spirit is present in our lives, then we will continue in our faith, no matter what.

- **Why are people sometimes tempted to walk away from their faith?**
  
- **What helps you to continue in what you have learned?**

## Day Three

# 2 TIMOTHY 3:15

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Throughout his entire life, Timothy had been taught the Old Testament Scriptures, particularly by his mother and grandmother. When Paul preached the gospel to him, helping Timothy to understand how Jesus was the fulfillment of the law and prophecies, Timothy readily believed and committed his life to following Jesus. Some parents do an incredible job of teaching their children to live for God. Others aren’t too highly concerned with spiritual things. Either way, no parent is perfect, and we are all responsible to pursue a relationship with God. Today, thank God for your parents—or others who have cared for you—and for the things they have taught you, particularly as related to matters of faith.

- **Who has helped you to understand the truth about Jesus? How did they do this?**
  
- **Who are you helping to grow in understanding the truth of Jesus? How?**

## Day Four

# 2 TIMOTHY 3:16a

We refer to Scripture as the Word of God because it was spoken by Him—it is His words. Inspired in this verse can be translated as “breathed out.” Even though the Bible was written by humans, it was written under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Further, we must understand that this applies to all Scripture. Some people pick and choose which parts of the Bible they will believe and obey. This is a tragic mistake—every word is from the mouth of God, and if we want to honor God with our lives, we must believe it all, and seek to live by it every way.

➤ **Why is it important to believe every word of the Bible?**

➤ **Why are people sometimes tempted to pick and choose which parts to believe?**

## Day Five

# 2 TIMOTHY 3:16b-17



God spoke to His people through Scripture, so that we could know Him. Relationships are built on communication, and our knowing God required that He speak to us. Further, God’s Word gives clear direction about the ways we are to live. By studying and obeying God’s Word, we are guided, corrected, and disciplined—shaped to live righteous lives. God’s goal for each of us is that we would live as Jesus lived on earth. We are made to be mature and complete—like Jesus—as we devote ourselves to knowing and obeying God’s Word, and as the Holy Spirit works through God’s Word to transform us.

➤ **How would you describe your relationship with God?**

➤ **How has God changed you through His Word?**