

*You are Cordially Invited
to join God's family
and receive His richest blessings.*

All that is required is your

R.S.V.P.

It is your choice.

- Yes, I want to accept the invitation to be in God's family and I sincerely want to know what His will is for my life.

- or -

- No, I do not want to be in God's family.

There are no other options. Everyone inevitably chooses one or the other of these two options.

Those who choose to accept the invitation to join God's family will end up being included ... for all of eternity. Those who choose to not accept the invitation will not be included. It really is that simple.

Which choice have you made?

What is your choice?

Trivial pursuits - or - Fulfilling your purpose

Sadly, most people spend (*waste*) most of the days and years of their lives pursuing self-gratification -- food for the belly, clothing and decorations for the body, feathering the nest, and trivial pursuits.

Often, this pursuit of self-gratification becomes an endless chase after worldly pleasures, earthly possessions, and more money.

Those who follow that course, inevitably wake up one day and realize that they have wasted their life chasing after things that have no lasting value ... or worse ... they just end up dead.

If you want to achieve a truly fulfilling life

Consider this for a moment: *You were created for a purpose.*

Regrettably, most people have no idea what their purpose in life is.

Do you know yours?

The only way to achieve a truly fulfilling life is to seek, discover, understand, and actively pursue the ultimate mission and purpose of your life. The One who created you has the perfect plan for you. He wants your life to be filled with love, joy, peace, and all the blessings of an abundant, fulfilling life here and now ... plus a thrilling everlasting life in heaven with Him after this very brief temporary life on planet earth comes to an end.

However, you must understand that this abundant, fulfilling life will come to you *only* if you make the choice to join God's family and then earnestly seek to know Him and know His unique purpose and plan for your life. God is waiting for you to seek a close relationship with Him, but He will not force Himself on you.

In the Old Testament, speaking through the prophet, God said:

“If you seek me, you will find me,
if you search for me with all of your heart.”

Jeremiah 29:13

Notice, it is up to **you** to take the initiative to seek to know God and to discover His plan for your life. Have you asked Him? In the New Testament, He explains how to learn what His plan is for you:

“Mankind shall not live by bread alone,
but by **every word** that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

Matthew 4:4

We all need something far more important than more food for our bellies to nourish and sustain our lives. What we need is a regular dose of food for our minds from the greatest source of wisdom ever known ... to guide us into a more meaningful and purposeful life.

Regrettably, instead of seeking wisdom, most of us spend (*waste*) many hours every day in trivial pursuits ... watching television, reading for pleasure, tinkering with hobbies and pet projects, and doing whatever gives us temporary enjoyment and entertainment.

It is fine to include fun and recreation in our lives, but it is essential to develop a proper balance between work, sleep, recreation, and time invested in pursuing your God-given purpose in life.

God will reveal your purpose in life to you - **if - but only if** - you earnestly seek to know what it is and then **invest** some time every day contemplating the wisdom that God has given to us in the Bible.

Of course, some say that the Bible is just too difficult to read and understand and it is so big that it seems rather overwhelming. That may be true, but now there is an easy solution.

This Bible has been designed to make it easier than ever before to read or listen-to and understand God’s word. This has been accomplished by focusing attention on those passages in the Bible that can easily be identified as the “most essential” passages, and by guiding and enabling readers to gradually and comfortably expand their reading to the contexts within which the “most essential” passages are found.

Every word in the Bible is of priceless value and no portion of the Bible should be overlooked or ignored. However, focusing on the “most essential” passages is a wonderfully easy way of opening the door to God’s wisdom. So, just turn this page to open that door ...

AV7 *The Invitation Bible*

... is distinctively different in many respects than any previous Bible that has ever been published.

AV7 is an easy-to-read, accurate literal translation ... not a paraphrase.

AV7 is unique in its focus on one of the key messages in Bible, which is simply to invite everyone to listen and hear the Word of God and then make a conscious decision of their own free will if they will choose to join His family and follow Him so that they can receive and enjoy all of His blessings.

AV7 prominently features the most essential truths in the Bible and presents these essential truths as the starting point and focal points for all the rest of the amazing wisdom that is found in the Bible.

So many Bibles and so many religions that are based primarily on man-made rules tend to make knowing God and joining His family needlessly complicated.

The **AV7** Bible makes it easy.

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The Ten Commandments are the foundation of all truth

The Ten Commandments are the most readily recognizable of all truths. They are unique in many ways. One major distinction is that when God set forth the Ten Commandments, that was the first and only time that He ever spoke directly to all of mankind, rather than to and through certain individuals one at a time.

The Ten Commandments are further distinguished by the fact that this was the only time in all of recorded history that God ever wrote a message to mankind by His own hand. And it is significant that He wrote this message as an engraving carved in stone.

Ever since that event some 3,300 years ago, the Ten Commandments have been almost universally acknowledged and accepted as the foundation of all truth by people who believe in God.

Very few people who acknowledge that there is a God will ever dispute the relevance, common sense, reasonableness, viability, practicality, and appropriateness of the Ten Commandments as wise words to live by and to govern and be governed by.

Some people have claimed that the Ten Commandments were given only to the Jews, or that they were only meant for the ancient time and place in which they were given. Consequently, some say that only Jews are required to obey them. Others suggest that God's Ten Commandments are no longer applicable today.

However, as you read these Ten Commandments, it will surely be very apparent to you that God meant exactly what He said and that He fully intended for these Ten Commandments to remain in effect for all people and for all time.

Please note: The **AV⁷** Bible text uses reduced-size italics to identify words that have been interpolatively added to otherwise literally translated words to improve clarity, readability, and understandability. For example, in the verse: “*I am* the Lord your God” (see #1 on the facing page), the word “am” is an interpolatively added word. The **AV⁷** text also uses key word flags to identify significant word revisions from the traditional English text. For example, the word “murder+” (see #6 on the facing page) is a more accurate translation than the traditional translation “kill.”

The 10 Commandments

Exodus 20:1-17

#1 ^{v1-3} God spoke ... saying: I *am* the Lord your God ...
You shall have no other gods before me.

#2 ^{v4} You shall not make for yourself any graven image or any likeness of *any thing* that *is* in heaven above or that *is* in the earth beneath or that *is* in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow yourself down to them nor serve them, for I the Lord your God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generation* of those who hate me ⁶ and showing mercy to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

#3 ^{v7} You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold those guiltless who take His name in vain.

#4 ^{v8} Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days shall you labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the Lord your God. *In it*, you shall not do any work: You nor your son nor your daughter, your servant nor your maid, nor your cattle, nor your visitor+ who *is* within your gates. ¹¹ For *in* six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and *He* rested *on* the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

#5 ^{v12} Honor your father and your mother *so* that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God has given *to* you.

#6 ^{v13} You shall not murder+.

#7 ^{v14} You shall not commit adultery.

#8 ^{v15} You shall not steal.

#9 ^{v16} You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

#10 ^{v17} You shall not covet your neighbor's house *and* you shall not covet your neighbor's wife nor his manservant nor his maidservant nor his ox nor his ass nor any thing that *is* your neighbor's.

A short 12-minute overview of the Most Essential Truths in the Bible

All of the words and messages in the Bible are of great importance and great value, and no part of the Bible should be omitted, ignored, or disregarded. However, some of the words and messages in the Bible are of very special significance.

For example, the Ten Commandments establish foundational truths that are benchmarks of bedrock importance. On the other hand, much of the Bible is filled with historical narratives, genealogical records, biographical data, eye-witness accounts, personal testimonies, supernatural events, prophecies, allegories, and various other types and categories of content.

Interspersed among the 790,391 words in 31,089 verses in the Bible, there are certain key verses through which God communicates ***universal truths*** and ***declarative instructions*** to mankind. Sometimes He speaks through the mouths of prophets, but in a few places He proclaims “the Word of God” literally out of His own mouth. The first words in the Book of John identify and introduce the One whose very name is “the Word of God” in this way:

“In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.”

(and then in verse 14)

“... and the Word became flesh and lived⁺ among us.”

Only one person in all of recorded history has ever held this name and title, “the Word of God.” Therefore, the words that He spoke out of His own mouth are surely far more significant and more important than any other words ever spoken or written.

Section 3 of this book presents passages #11 through #249 in which the Word of God proclaims His universal truths and declarative instructions. But first, in the 7 pages that follow, you can quickly read 98 of the very most essential of these passages. While it takes more than 66 hours to read the entire Bible, you can read these 98 key passages in as little as 12 minutes.

Therefore, you can now enjoy refreshing inspiration and encouragement every day by re-reading and meditating on these key passages from the incomparable wisdom of the Word of God.

*If anyone has ears
that can hear
let them listen.*

#11 It is written:
Mankind shall not live
by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds
out of the mouth of God.

#12 Again it is written: You shall
not tempt the Lord your God.

#13 You shall worship
the Lord your God
and Him only shall you serve.

#14 Truly, truly, I say to you:
Unless a person is born again, they
cannot see the kingdom of God.

#15 Truly, truly, I say to you:
Unless a person is born of water and
of the Spirit, they cannot enter into
the kingdom of God. *Those* who are
born of flesh are flesh, and *those*
who are born of the Spirit are spirit.
Do not marvel that I said: You must
be born again.

#17 God so loved the world,
that He gave
His Only Begotten Son,
so that whoever believes in Him
should not perish,
but have eternal life.

#18 God did not send His Son into
the world to condemn the world, but
so that the world through Him might

be saved. *Those* who believe in Him
are not condemned, but *those* who
do not believe are condemned
already, because they have not
believed in the name of the Only
Begotten Son of God.

#20 The Word of God יְשׁוּעַ said:
Whoever drinks of the water that
I give will never thirst. Instead, the
water that I give will become a well
of water within them springing up
into eternal life.

#21 God is Spirit. *Those* who
worship Him must worship *Him* in
spirit and in truth.

#23 Repent. For the kingdom of
heaven is very near.

#24 Follow me and I will make
you fishers of men.

#25 Sin no more, lest a worse
thing come to you.

#27 Truly, truly, I say to you:
Those who hear my Word and
believe in Him who sent me have
eternal life and will not come into
condemnation, but *they* are passed
from death to life.

#28 *Those* who have done good
will come forth to the resurrection
of life, and *those* who have done evil
to the resurrection of damnation.

#29 Search the Scriptures.
For in them
you think you have eternal life,
and they testify of me.

The Most Essential Truth in the Bible

A concise summation of the ultimate purpose and principles of life

#30 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

#31 Blessed *are those* who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

#32 Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

#33 Blessed *are those* who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

#34 Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

#35 Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

#36 Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

#37 Blessed *are those* who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

#38 Blessed are you when *people* revile you and persecute *you* and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake.

#39 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad. For great *is* your reward in heaven. For so *likewise did* they persecute the prophets who were before you.

#40 You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its savor, with what will it be salted? It is thereafter good for nothing but to be cast out and trampled under foot.

#41 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do people light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick *so that* it gives light to all who are in the house.

#42 Let your light so shine before *people* that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

#43 Do not think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets. I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you: Until heaven and earth pass, one jot or one smallest mark shall in no way pass from the law until all is fulfilled.

#44 Whoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments and shall teach *people to do* so shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever shall do *them* and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

#53 You have heard that it has been said: You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you:

Love your enemies.
Bless *those* who curse you.
Do good to *those* who hate you.
And pray for *those*
who despitefully use you
and persecute you
so that you may be the children
of your Father in heaven.

#57 Pray in this manner:

Our Father in heaven,
Holy is your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as *it is* in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us *for* our debts
as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us *so that we will not*
yield to temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom is yours,
and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.

#58 If you forgive others *for* their trespasses *then* your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others *for* their trespasses *then* neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

#61 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupt and where thieves break through and steal. Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust corrupt and where thieves do not break through or steal.

#62 Do not be afraid, little flock. For it is your Father's good pleasure to give the kingdom *of God* to you.

#65 No one can serve two masters. For either they will hate the one and love the other, or else they will hold to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve God
and *worldly* treasures.

#66 Take heed and beware of covetousness. For one's life *is not to be found* in the abundance *of things* one possesses.

#73 Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.

#75 Do not judge *so* that you *will not be judged*. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged. With what gauge you measure, it will be measured to you again.

#76 Give and it will be given to you: Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. Others will give to your innermost *needs*. For with the same gauge with which you measure it will be measured to you again.

#80 Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives and *those* who seek *will find* and to *those* who knock it will be opened.

#82 --- *The Golden Rule* ---

Therefore all things whatsoever you would that others should do to you, you do to them. For this is *the sum of the law and the prophets*.

The Most Essential Truth in the Bible

A concise summation of the ultimate purpose and principles of life

#84 Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are greedy wolves. You will know them by their fruits.

#86 Not everyone who says to me: Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but *only those* who do the will of my Father in heaven.

#91 Go and learn what *this* means: I will have mercy and not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.

#92 Do not be afraid.
Only believe.

#95 As you go, proclaim *the Word*, say: The kingdom of heaven is *very* near.

#106 ... there is nothing covered that will not be revealed and *nothing* hidden that will not be known.

#109 Whoever will confess me before people, I will confess before my Father in heaven. But whoever will deny me before people, I will deny before my Father in heaven.

#114 Come to me
all *you* who labor
and are heavily burdened.
I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you
and learn of me.
For I am meek and lowly
in heart. You will find
rest for your souls.
For my yoke *is* easy
and my burden is light.

#115 You are overly anxious and troubled about *too* many things. But one thing is necessary: *giving heed to the Word of God* ...

#118 Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation. Every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

#119 *Those* who are not with me are against me. *Those* who do not gather with me scatter.

#122 ... out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good person out of good treasure of the heart brings forth good things. An evil person out of evil treasure brings forth evil things.

#123 ... *for* every idle word that people speak, they will give *an* account of it on the day of judgment.

For by your words
you will be justified
and by your words
you will be condemned.

#124 ... *blessed are those* who hear the Word of God and keep it.

#125 ... whoever does the will of my Father in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother.

#130 Be of good cheer. I am *with you*. Do not be afraid.

#132 This is the work of God: That you believe in *the one* whom He has sent.

#137 Truly truly I say to you:

*Those who believe in me
have eternal life.*

#141 If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear. Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, filthiness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness. These are *the things* that defile a person ...

#142 If anyone will come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever would save their life will lose it and whoever would lose their life for my sake will find it. For what is anyone to profit if they gain the whole world and lose their own soul? Or what shall anyone give in exchange for their soul?

#143 If you can believe, all things are possible to *those* who believe.

#156 If anyone thirsts, let them come to me and drink. As the Scripture has said *of those* who believe in me: Out of their innermost being will flow rivers of living water.

#157 If you continue
in my Word *then*
you are indeed
my disciples.
You shall know the truth
and the truth
will make you free.

#159 Truly, truly, I say to you: If anyone keeps my Word, they will never see death.

#161 I am the door. If anyone enters in through me, they will be saved ...

#162 ... I have come *so* that they *might* have life and have *it* more abundantly.

#177 I am the resurrection and the life. *Those* who believe in me, though they were dead, yet shall they live.

Whoever lives and believes
in me will never die.
Do you believe this?

#182 Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning made them male and female and said: For this reason a man shall leave father and mother and cleave to his wife and they two shall be one flesh. Therefore they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together do not let anyone separate.

#186 If you will enter into life, keep the commandments. You shall do no murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and *your* mother. And, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

#189 ... With God
all things are possible.

The Most Essential Truth in the Bible

A concise summation of the ultimate purpose and principles of life

#196 Truly I say to you: If you have faith and do not doubt, but say to this mountain: Be removed and be cast into the sea, it will be done. All things whatsoever you ask in prayer believing, you will receive.

#200 You err *by* not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God.

#201 What is written in the law?
How do you read *it*?
You shall love the Lord
your God with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind.
Do this and you will live.
This is the first
and great commandment.

#202 The second *is* like it:
You shall love your neighbor
as yourself.
On these two commandments
hang all the law and the prophets.

#204 Do not be called Rabbi. For one is your Master, Christ. All *of* you are family.

#205 Do not call any *man* your father on the earth, for one is your Father, who is in heaven. Neither *should* you be called masters. For one is your Master, Christ. But one who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

#206 Whoever exalts themselves will be humbled and *those* who humble themselves will be exalted.

#207 Take heed *so* that no one deceives you.

#211 Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away.

#223 A new commandment
I give to you:
That you love one another.
As I have loved you,
that you also love one another.
By this all *people* will know
that you are my disciples:
If you have love
toward one another.

#225 Do not let your heart be troubled. You believe in God. Believe also in me.

#226 I am the way,
the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father,
but by me.

#229 If you love me,
keep my commandments.

#230 *Those* who have my commandments and keep them are the ones who *truly* love me. *Those* who love me will be loved by my Father and I will love them and will reveal myself to them. If anyone loves me, they will keep my words and my Father will love them and we will come to them and live within them.

#232 Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled *and do not* let it be afraid.

#235 I have spoken these things to you *so* that my joy might remain in you and *so that* your joy might be full.

#236 This is my commandment:
That you love one another
as I have loved you.

#237 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down one's *own* life for one's friends.

#242 I have spoken these things to you *so* that in me you might have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.

#243 Watch and pray *so* that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

#244 Peace to you. As *my* Father has sent me, even so I *now* send you.

#245 Receive *the* Holy Spirit.

#246 Follow me.

#247 Go therefore
and teach all nations,
baptizing them
in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe
all things whatsoever
I have commanded you.
Behold I am with you always,
even to the end of the world.

#248 *Those* who believe and are baptized will be saved, but *those* who do not believe will be damned.

#249

--- The Invitation ---

Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone *will* hear my voice
and open the door,

I will come in to them
and dine⁺ with them
and they with me.

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A concise summation of the ultimate mission and purpose of life.

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You are Cordially Invited
to receive the greatest wisdom
and blessings ever known

Do you know that *God loves you*
and that He wants you and everyone you care about
to be filled with love, joy, peace,
patience, gentleness, goodness,
and faith that will encourage and inspire you?

All you need to do to receive
the greatest wisdom and blessings ever known
is *read or listen* to the Word of God and *believe*.

That is all.

You do not have to join any particular church
or follow any special religious doctrine
based on man-made rules.

You do not have to pay any dues or fees.
And you do not have to participate
in any mysterious ceremonies or secret rituals.

If you will *just read the most essential truths* in the Bible
you will see how easy it is to receive the free gifts
of wisdom, abundant life for today, and eternal life
after your temporary life on earth comes to an end.

But you must understand
that wisdom and God's greatest blessings are given
only to those who *choose* to believe in Him
and believe Him (*believe His Word*)
and who make a resolute decision
to join His family and follow Him.

The good news is that this is very easy to do.
God never intended for hearing and believing His Word
to be confusing or complicated.

All that is required is your ... **RSVP**