

+ Underground Hope +

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For in this Hope we were saved! - Romans 8:24

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MISSION: To spread the truth and *gospel* of Jesus Christ in a world that has rejected and trampled on the hope of *salvation*. To show the *grace* of God which has been given to us on the cross of Calvary by our dear Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. To correct our brothers and sister in error, and to *end the heresies* that torment **Christianity**. All in the sweet name of *Jesus Christ*.

The Bible: Doorstop or Manual for Life?!?!?

Time to Brush the Dust Off!

Take that **big old book** off that shelf in your bedroom, and *wipe the dust off*. Open the cover and read the first page. Now it's time to read a little more than just the first page; it's time to understand what the Bible really is about.

The Bible is the inerrant, inspired, and infallible Word of God. Often we like to say that the Bible is *verbally inspired*. What does that mean, though? It means that man wrote the Bible, but the Holy Spirit inspired it, as if conversing with him (man).

In Christianity we use the Bible *as our rule of norm*. It is the guide that we use for our faith; in it we find the answers to life - eternal life, that is.

This is the first of two issues in which we will talk about the Bible, what it really is, and why it matters so much. Now don't forget, after you're done reading this issue you have to pull that Bible out from its doorstep position and get ready to read it!

Isn't Aramaic that guy from the Matrix?

What's Aramaic? No, it is not the latest product from Mountain Dew; that's something else. Aramaic is the dialect of Hebrew that the original Old Testament was written in. The Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, and has since been translated into English and many other languages. We have to understand, though, that the Bible doesn't exactly translate easily. English is not perfectly compatible with Hebrew and Greek, so sometimes we don't always translate things properly. This has especially been the case in modern times.

One of the first people ever to attempt translating the Bible was a guy named Tyndale. He was martyred for Jesus, but his translation moved on and eventually was developed into what is known as the *King James* or the *Authorized* version of the Bible. Almost every Bible that exists today is an update to the KJV.

Often, though, people claim that they cannot understand the Bible, that they need it in simpler terms. The fact is God wrote the Bible for you to read it, He would not intentionally write a Book for people expecting them not to be capable of reading it. If the Israelites can do it, I have full faith that you can too.

Modern translators have been steering away from the Tyndale tradition and have started dumbing scripture down so that the words would be simpler for people. This wouldn't be such a bad thing, except that they are losing the meaning of the scripture that they are translating. Also, they are not always allowing the Holy Spirit to discern their heart when translating the Bible.

We've made a list for you of three Bible translations that are very literal and we believe these to be good Bibles for daily reading and studying.

New King James Version - This Bible continues in the Tyndale tradition, using the original King James. This translation is more of an update on the original KJV. Over time the KJV has had few er-

rors, but unfortunately it is written in a style of English no longer used today. Because it is not in a style of English that we can understand, it has been converted into modern English without losing meaning. In addition a few errors from the KJV have been corrected in it.

New American Standard Version - This Bible continues also in the Tyndale tradition; however the NASB originates from the American Version. The American Version was the first English update of the KJV, after the American Version the American Standard Version came and since then the New American Standard Version. The NASB is notorious for being absolute literal to the Greek and Hebrew without much error. Though this is a great translation, however it does have a very high reading level. It can be tough to read at times because it doesn't always flow extraordinarily well.

English Standard Version - This is another translation in the Tyndale line, however, this one is very new. This translation uses the latest Dead Sea Scrolls in addition to the traditional Lexicon. This translation is known for being literal and flowing well. Some people have said that it sounds just like someone talking. The ESV carries a comfort level that other translations don't have. This translation has also been adopted by some of the most orthodox church bodies. Those church bodies would only adopt a Bible that truly stuck to God's word.

Any of these three translations would be great Bibles to get. The NKJV is available inexpensively from <http://www.ibs.org/> and the ESV from <http://www.crossway.com/>. The NASB is a little bit more expensive but well worth it, check it out at <http://www.lockman.org/>. Both the NKJV and NASB translations can be read online at <http://bible.gospelcom.net/>.

God's Perfect Word

In issue three, we placed a lot of emphasis on believing what the Bible says about Creation. Once a person fails to believe in one part of the Bible, it's very easy for them to disbelieve another part, then another, until they don't believe much of the Bible at all. Why, though, is it so important to believe in **everything** the Bible teaches? Why is it that once we fail to believe one part of the Bible (regardless of how small or large), that it's easy to not believe other parts as well? What's it mean for the Bible to be inerrant and infallible?

First, I'll start with some basic stuff. Inerrant and infallible are some **big** terms at which many of you may look and say *HUH?!?!?! What does that mean?* Well, it's actually pretty simple. Inerrant has in it the word *err*. Basically this term describes the perfection of the Bible. If something is inerrant it is without errors. Something infallible is something that is from God. A Bible that is infallible

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Have questions about Jesus, need answers and you're not sure where to look? We're willing to help you.

Feel free to contact us at: email@erichmusic.com and InsyderHomieLC@hotmail.com

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and inerrant is free from grammatical, historical, as well as scientific errors. For example, long before people discovered the world is round, Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 40:22 that God "sits above the circle of the earth." Other "holy books," such as the Qu'ran, contain countless uses of incorrect grammar. On the other hand, the original Greek and Hebrew texts contain no such errors. The Bible is also perfect in its theology and doctrine, as we see in 2 Timothy 3:16 - "*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*" Instead of using the terms "*inspired by God,*" the original Greek text for this verse used a term meaning God-breathed. As we know from the Bible, God is perfect. Therefore, anything He says (or *breathes*) is also perfect. He created the world and all that is inside it by speaking. Remember how everything was perfect and "good" when He created it (Genesis 1:31)?

Why is it important that we believe **everything** the Bible teaches? This goes back to the fact that God is perfect, as is His Word. If we doubt the Word that **He** has given us we doubt God. When Peter was walking on the water he doubted Jesus, thus acting on his own and he began to sink. When we take our eyes off Jesus and deviate from what the Bible teaches, even just in one seemingly small area, we are acting on our own without God (Numbers 15:39, Hebrews 12:25, 1 John 2:16, 1 Peter 3:12, et al).

Why is it bad not to believe in the **entire** Bible? Believing that the entire Word of God is perfect, inerrant, and God breathed takes faith. When we start believing that parts of the Bible aren't true or aren't infallible, our faith hurts. In many cults and sects Satan has used people's disbelief in one small part of the Bible and taken that and used it to draw people away from the **truth** of the Bible. Satan puts doubt in people's minds. Once people stop believing in one part of the Bible he reasons with them that if that one part of the Bible isn't true, then other parts must also not be true. Eventually, the person can get to the point where he believes that **none** of the Bible holds truth.

As we'll show in Issue 6, reading the Bible daily is an **important** step in not falling away from God and keeping to **His** Word.

Modern Heretics—BEWARE!!!

Maybe we're writing this to fill up space... Or maybe this is actually important and you need to beware of these. Here are some common heresies that are the post-product of denying scriptural inerrancy and infallibility.

- Creation denial for Evolution
- Denial of Sodom & Gomorrah (Advocating Homosexuality)
- Miracles of Jesus Christ (Obviously they never happened!)
- Advocating Jesus Seminar (Jesus words aren't authentic.)
- Virgin Birth (Mary was raped by a Roman Soldier)
- Tally sheet sinning (God's checklist)

We wouldn't tell you about these if they weren't serious. Many churches and large denominations have fallen into believing these terrible lies, so keep your eyes on the lookout and avoid at all cost!

On the Internet?

Our web site is on a role and we are developing it into something you definitely want to see!

Do you need past issues of Underground Hope? Or possibly you're interested in ordering a subscription to Underground Hope. Maybe you would just like to post a question for us on the web site.

Check us out at:
<http://uHope.cjb.net>

We update often so stop by anytime!

Have questions about Jesus, need answers and you're not sure where to look? We're willing to help you.

Feel free to contact us at: email@erichmusic.com and InsyderHomieLC@hotmail.com

Underground Hope—News

This is a new section to UH, and we plan to include it from now on, basically we want to keep you up to date with what's going on with us at Underground Hope.

Some of our readers know that we just finished making all of our supplies, stationary, envelopes, business cards, etc. We also just finished our first mailing of 56 churches in West Chicago, Winfield, Warrenville, and Carol Stream. Our next mailing will be to Wheaton (A grand total of 100+ churches) and we expect to do that shortly before Issue 6.

Erich has also busily been working on the Website. Which is coming along great. Make sure you check it out, and also if you're interested in past issues, or an order form for your church check it out at:

<http://uHope.cjb.net>

Devotional—What does it mean to be perfect?

As *Christians* we are supposed to strive for **perfection in Christ**. Our perfection comes only when we fulfill the Law of God perfectly from start to beginning. Because of sin, we know *this is impossible*. However, we still strive to because *it was Christ's command*.

On earth, Christ lived a sinless and perfect life; He **never** erred. Christ stood tall in the worst of times because of His perfection, and it was because of His perfection *that we are justified before God the father*. The only way we can ever be justified before God the father is through Christ's perfection. It was all part of **God's plan**, His will for His people.

The Bible has been given to us as a perfect piece of work. The Bible explains to us God's plan of perfection, and we use the Bible to strive for His plan of perfection in us. Perfect means free from fault, from sin, or error. The Bible is perfect because **it is God's word**, how incredible is that?

Look at other holy books belonging to other religions. Are they ever perfect? The Koran contains countless spelling and grammatical errors, *while the Bible doesn't*. The Book of Mormon contains man's pietism and strive for self-excellence, *the Bible doesn't*. The Jehovah Witness Bible alters languages to fit their beliefs, *the Bible doesn't*. The Bible is perfect in grammar, spelling, doctrines, and in **God's love**.

We use the Bible as our rule of norm for our faith. How could we use anything besides what is perfect? God, through the Holy Spirit, gave us the Bible so that we might learn from it and be instructed in the *Christian* faith. God also gives us other gifts so that we can get closer to being what He wants, people who fear, trust, and love In only Jesus Christ.

Think of all the things God has given you so far. Are you using God's gifts for *His will*? Or are you using them for your own? If you have the ability to sing do you use your voice to **glorify God**, or to glorify sexual immorality? If you have the ability to write do you use your ability to doctor pagan myths, or to **explain Christ's love for the world**?

Take for granted nothing that God gives you, and as you go through your week remember we find perfection in Jesus Christ. *While you're at dust the book shelf too!*

Devotionals Online

Need more devotionals? You can find a lot more devotionals, scripture instruction and other resources available for the interested Christian. They are available at:

<http://www.devotionals.cjb.net>

This web site updates weekly with new devotions. If you're looking for further study on the Book of Ephesians check out the new commentary, and coming soon *The Diary of a Psalmist*.