

Trust in the Bible

Reading chosen to show the joy the people had when hearing the words of God that had been lost.

I am starting with a thought for us to ponder.
'Would we miss our Bible if it was lost?'

OR in our increasingly secular society; 'How would we feel about the Bible if we were forbidden to own one, buy one or read one? Would this make it more important to us so that we would fight for the right to own a Bible and read this special book, The Word of our God?'

Quite frequently in the news we read or hear 'sound bytes' from politicians or famous people. These snippets are usually quoted out of the context of the whole speech and used to support the opinion or attitude of the newspaper or reporter. We learn not to trust these snippets but to read the whole article so deciding for ourselves the validity of the quote.

Do any of you listen to radio 4 'More or Less'? This programme takes statistics from the news and de bunks them. None of the statistics stand up to scrutiny. We need to be discerning as they are used to convince us of doubtful truths.

The Bible can also be misquoted and snippets used to support an opinion or attitude. It is important that we can then go to the appropriate part of the Bible and read it all for ourselves, fitting the scrap we heard into the wider context.

How can we trust what we hear if we do not read and know our Bible? These words of God have been handed down for generations. I value these words as a guide to my relationship with God and others, giving me spiritual hope and help in my daily life.

Life experiences have shown me I can trust God's word. Like many of you, I expect, at times I have been far away from God, caught up in family life, long working hours, illness of parents . . . many things to worry about and distract me from God's care. There have been times when my Bible was in a drawer.

I have always gone to church from childhood so in difficult times the Words from the Bible resonated with me. Sentences from Jesus, St Paul

the prophets these can be so supportive in difficult times. Reading the parables shows me Jesus' words are for my life today. Try Luke 6: 46-49. Famous words of Jesus about building a house on sand or rocks. Of course we would not build a house on sand, but Jesus is really saying to me today that I need to build my life on his word, solid ground. We ask in the baptism service 'Do you believe and trust in Jesus?' If I believe in Jesus then I want to live as he commands.

To trust is to have confidence in and belief in the reliability of the Bible. These Words of God have stood the test of time for a very long time. Let's not lose that trust and knowledge. Yes, I know, it is not easy to understand many areas of the Bible. There are ways to get help from Bible commentaries, home groups, our Vicar's sermons (and our readers John and Peter). A study Bible helps too. One of the marks of the Messiah, Jesus, is wisdom. Try it for yourselves. You will recognise God's hand in many ways in life today.

I end with a prayer:

Holy Spirit, guide our lives this week. Enable us to stay close to Jesus and to learn his wisdom for our lives today. Amen.

Nehemiah 8: 1-3,5-6, 9-10.