

Welcome to The International Bible Course

Greetings fellow Bible student:

Thank you for enrolling in The International Bible Course. This course consists of eight sections that are designed to share the truth concerning God, His existence, and His word. God loves us all very much; so much, that He has blessed us with the ability to choose whether or not to inquire and learn about Him and His plan for us. We at The International Bible Course want to congratulate you in making the choice to participate in this course and hope that you will grow closer to the Lord throughout this study.

The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:6, “I planted, Apollos watered, but **God gave the increase**”. So, we know that no person can force anyone to come to God or is responsible for increasing their relationship with Him. However, it is through the power of His word that His truth can be spread and can give you the opportunity to choose His will and grow spiritually. Unfortunately, since the establishment of the church, as recorded in Acts chapter 2, men have misled, misrepresented, and falsely taught doctrines that have been in complete contradiction with the word of God. Therefore, we desire to share with you the unbiased truth in God’s word as it is documented throughout the Bible.

In 1 Corinthians 14:33 we learn, “For **God is not the author of confusion but of peace**, as in all the churches of the saints.” Sadly, as mentioned earlier, many have attempted to make the word of God appear confusing and difficult to understand. However, with a sincere and unbiased approach in studying God’s word, one can discover the most basic truths concerning God and His plan for us, followed by increasing their understanding of His word and nature.

We have an example within the New Testament of one who was unaware of his incorrect teaching and what was done in helping him make proper corrections. In Acts 18 we read starting in verse 24 and going through verse 26 of a man named Apollos: “²⁴ Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵ **This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord**; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, **though he knew only the baptism of John**. ²⁶ So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, **they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.**” Whatever your religious or spiritual background may be, The International Bible Course is designed to teach you the truth and way of God more accurately.

This course is comprised of 8 interactive sections and 1 final section that is completed individually. Each section is designed around a specific topic. These topics are chosen and based strictly upon God’s word. The points that are made originate from the Bible. Therefore, within each section, the verses that are used will be highlighted in red ink so that they may be distinguished clearly. This will also help in answering the questions within the worksheet because each answer can only be found using the verses. However, you are encouraged to follow along and read the verses yourself. This can be done using your own Bible or by accessing www.Biblegateway.com.

Each worksheet and lesson will be no longer than one page front and back. The worksheets will have a total of 25 true or false, multiple-choice, and fill in the blank questions. There will also be a section that has two optional written responses. The 1st response is available to state what you have learned from the lesson and the 2nd response is available to ask any questions you may have. If you are taking this course through correspondence, you will then return your completed worksheet through the mail (if taking the lesson through the postal mail) or through email (if taking the lesson through email). When a completed worksheet is returned, a new section will be sent (in order to return completed worksheets a pre-stamped envelope will be provided with each section for those taking the course through postal mail). When you receive the next section, it will contain the lesson and worksheet for that section as well as a copy of your previously completed worksheet and an answer key for that worksheet. The answer key is provided in order to examine the accuracy of your responses when compared to scripture.

Throughout the course, you will also have the opportunity to complete 3 questionnaires that are provided to initiate self-examination prior to studying specific sections. These questionnaires will be provided with section 2, section 3, and section 4. If you are taking this course through correspondence, you will send back your completed questionnaire along with your completed worksheet for that section. The questionnaire will then be returned to you with the next section you receive. Finally, there will be a thank you letter and spiritual evaluation that accompanies the answer key to worksheet 8. This final section is intended to congratulate and thank you for completing the course and also gives you an opportunity to take a personal spiritual evaluation in comparison to the word of God.

We hope that in taking this course you will learn more about God’s word and make application to His instruction. Thank you again for choosing to sign up and may your life be greatly impacted by the Lord and His truth.

May you trust in the Lord,

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Bible Translation: New King James*
*unless otherwise noted
Source: Biblegateway.com

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Bold within verses added to place emphasis on specific words within the passage