

List your favorite verses here.

A Bible Guide

From the Goffstown, New Hampshire Bible Chat

Have you heard of the Jefferson Bible? As we know, Thomas Jefferson one of the country's founders, was a well educated and very intelligent man. In addition to his familiarity with classical literature and language, not to mention his acumen for organization and government, Jefferson was a serious student of the Holy Bible. Though some argue that his interest in scripture was more intellectual than spiritual, there is no denying Jefferson's respect for and understanding of Holy Writ.

The Jefferson Bible is a reflection of a man who, like a selective eater in front of a big tossed salad, wants to pick out his favorite elements and leave the rest behind for someone else to digest. What Thomas Jefferson did was to literally cut out the sections of scripture he felt either not original or simply not helpful or true of God as Jefferson 'knew' God.

Question – What would your Bible read like if you could keep only the sections and sayings that seemed good, helpful, right to you? Start writing them down. See what develops. Then ask yourself if what you would save tells the story of God's interactions with humankind fully or not. How is 'your' Bible more helpful, clear and less confusing than the Holy Bible as it stands.

The 'Selective Bible' passages chosen by the Goffstown New Hampshire Bible Chat group include:

Pastoral Guidance:

Isaiah 61:1 For strength/Social Justice – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

Isaiah 52:7 Good tidings/assurance – How beautiful upon the mountain.

Ezekiel 36:24-28 Encouragement/transformation – A new heart and a new spirit

Isaiah 32:17&18 Spiritual/pastoral guidance – Quietness and trust forever

Luke 1:78-80 Encouragement – The dawn from on high shall break upon us

Luke 1:44-55 Encouragement – My soul shall magnify the Lord

Psalms 22 - Hope promised

Lamentations 3:22 Assurance and hope – Steadfast love never ceases

Psalms 23 The Lord is my shepherd

Luke 6:19 Healing power

Psalms 51 Create in me a clean heart

Psalms 139 God's care for us

Philippians 4:8&9 Steadfast love

A Prayer from Thomas Crammer 1549

“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*”
