
TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

Jesus said that
LOVE
is *the* distinguishing mark
of anyone who follows Him.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the **BIBLE**



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

WHEN HIS LIFE IS YOUR LIFE



Dr. J. Vernon McGee
THRU the BIBLE Founder

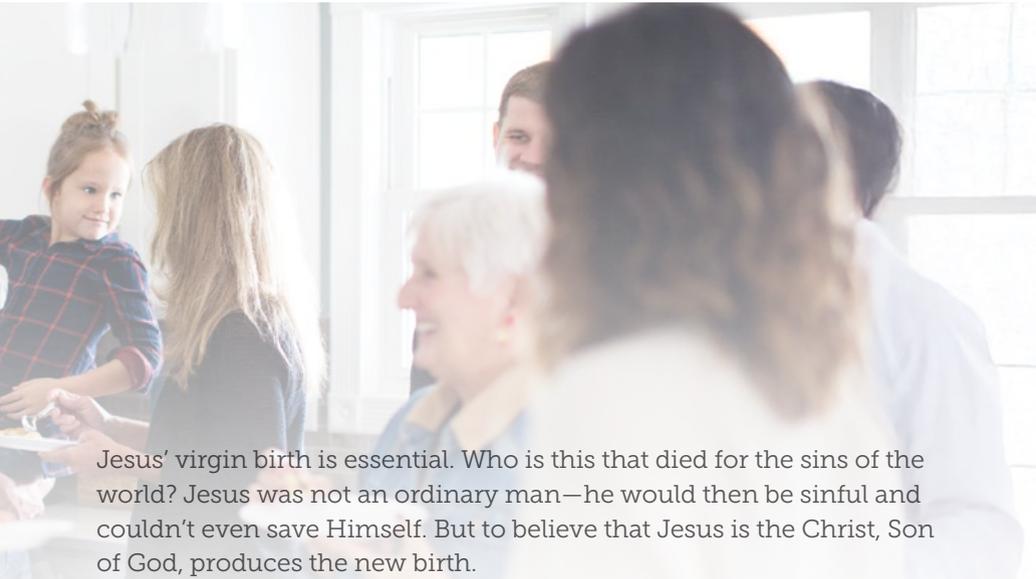


This excerpt is from our
1 John Bible Companion,

Download a free copy at [TTB.org/1John](https://www.TTB.org/1John)
or buy a print copy at [store.TTB.org](https://www.store.TTB.org).

In our study of this wonderful letter from John to the body of Christ, we learn three great definitions of God: “God is light” (1 John 1), “God is love” (1 John 2-3), and “God is life” (1 John 5).

God is life, and our life in Him comes through being born of God. You become a child of God through simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In his Gospel, John wrote that if you believe on Him, Jesus gives you the power (that is, the right, the authority) to become the sons of God, even to those who don’t do any more nor less than simply believe on His name (see John 1:12). When you trust Christ, you trust who He is as well as what He did. What He did has no value if He is not who He said He was.



Jesus' virgin birth is essential. Who is this that died for the sins of the world? Jesus was not an ordinary man—he would then be sinful and couldn't even save Himself. But to believe that Jesus is the Christ, Son of God, produces the new birth.

When you have been born again, how do you know? Does it come with some great, overwhelming experience? Well, some experience that, but it's not typical.

When you trust the Lord Jesus Christ, you are born again, and God becomes your heavenly Father. You are His and you will love Him. But it doesn't stop there—you also will love God's other children. Jesus said this love is the distinguishing mark of anyone who follows Him (John 13:35).

You are born again when you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, and the proof of it is that you love God and you love His other children because they are your brothers and sisters. This cannot be confined to a certain denomination, church, race, clique, or group. The one who is born again will love others who are born again.

How can you be sure you are saved? John offers some evidences that you are a child of God.

1. You want to do what’s right (1 John 2:29). You will fail sometimes, but your habit is to do right in order to please God.
2. You don’t make sin a lifestyle (John 3:9). You don’t live in it or revel in it. Your practice is to not do wrong. We couldn’t help it before we had God’s Spirit to give us power, but now we live differently than our natural bent.
3. You love other Christians (1 John 4:7). Do you have concern for them? This test will give you confidence you are born of God.
4. You overcome the world (1 John 5:4). The “world” here is the *cosmos*, that is, the world with all of its organizations, all of its governments, all of its selfishness, its greed, its sorrow, its sickness, and its awful sin. Who can conquer the world except the man who really believes Jesus is God’s Son?
5. You choose to live close to God so He can protect you from Satan (1 John 5:18). You don’t intentionally sin and put yourself in a place where the evil one can reach you. The devil can’t lay a hand on us when we are held firmly by God; it’s only the people of the world who continue in the grip of the evil one.

Loving God and His children, obedience to what Jesus taught us, and living in truth are birthmarks of God’s child (1 John 5:2).

THE SPIRIT MAKES THESE TRUTHS LIVE

The Lord Jesus told the disciples that between His death and resurrection and the day of Pentecost, they were to wait in Jerusalem and do nothing. They were not to witness of Him—why? Because they couldn’t witness effectually without the Holy Spirit.

WHEN YOU TRUST THE LORD JESUS CHRIST,

you are born again...

If anyone can be saved, not only is Jesus Christ's redemptive death essential, but also the Spirit of God must be at work in our hearts and lives. Christ died for our sins, but the Spirit of God makes that real to us. He's the only one who can.

Our salvation is the work of both heaven and earth. The Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit—as three-in-One—bear witness in heaven. And on earth, the Spirit and the water and the blood agree in one purpose: Presenting Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world who shed His blood upon Calvary and paid the penalty for our sins.

You are reading this—written sometime in the past by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Now, the Holy Spirit is applying His Word to your heart. His witness is that you would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and then grow in His grace and knowledge of the truth.

How do you come to this knowledge? Through the Word of God. The Word of God is the only thing that can clean up your life even as a believer, and it is the only thing that will keep you clean.

The only true miracle cleansing agent in the world today is the Word of God. For the Word of God presents Christ who shed His blood for your sins and my sins. These three bear witness on earth—the Spirit uses the water of the Word and applies the blood for our salvation. These three all agree in one—that is, they want to get you saved and keep you saved.



MY TURN

- ① What do the three definitions of God—God is light, God is love, and God is life—tell us about Him?
- ② If God is life for those who believe in Him, what does that tell us about those who have not believed?
- ③ Being born again into God's family should change our affections; we should love God and His people. Examine what you love. Does it reflect being a member of God's family?
- ④ Our relationship to sin is an indicator of our relationship with God. Are there sin patterns in your life that the Holy Spirit has been working in your life to change? What needs to happen for you to overcome these sins?
- ⑤ The most important thing we can do as Christians is to continue in the faith. What challenges your faith and what encourages it?

TELL ME YOUR STORY



Dave Dunmore
Executive Director,
TTB-Canada

*Tell me the story of Jesus,
write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
sweetest that ever was heard.*

-Fanny Crosby

The truth of this hymn is proclaimed every day around the world and in hundreds of languages by way of THRU the BIBLE's teaching ministry. When the truth of God's Word is written on a listener's heart, a beautiful story can then be told. We are privileged to hear how the story of Jesus results in countless people's salvation. Words can often not express the emotions of sadness, pain, hope, and rejoicing that spring up inside us as we listen to a beloved brother or sister share their precious testimony.

Recently, I and others from TTB's global team gathered in Kazakhstan with several dozen members of partner organizations who do the work of the gospel across Central Asia. While for safety reasons we can't disclose the faces and names of these valued partners, **we were all blessed by hearing of the fruits from their creative and committed efforts to share THRU the BIBLE.**



Media players are pre-loaded with THRU the BIBLE programs and distributed throughout Central Asia.



A Kazakh brother led us in a time of worship.

In this difficult region, pastors distribute media players and workers engage directly with people on social media. The story of Jesus is bravely shared. A leader told us of the wide-ranging effectiveness of THRU the BIBLE's teaching, saying, "TTB not only works for discipleship, but it's also evangelism." And those evangelism activities achieve real impact. Hearers respond with text messages like "I am a Muslim lady who listens to the TTB broadcast. I like that it is chronological teaching and very understandable." And "Why is the mosque not teaching us like the programs we hear on the radio?" Pray that these dear listeners will accept God's Word in their hearts.

Other amazing stories of new Christians followed. One concluded with, "They all believed, because it was such a testimony!" This is the account of an injured military veteran living in a remote Central Asian village. His background and threatening personality caused his family and community to live in fear of him. The man was given a media player with THRU the BIBLE in his language, and he began to listen. Soon he received Christ and started to tell others about how to have a new life in Christ. But he was evangelizing in his same frightening and threatening manner. As he listened and understood more of the Bible's teaching and message he realized, "**Christianity is not threatening; I need to tell people about the gospel with love!**" God changed his life and personality completely through the Bible study programs. Pray for this man as he stands for the truth and continues to face real and trying persecution in his home country.

Another story told of a pastor who visited an isolated village on the border with China. As he began to preach to the gathered family they told him, "We already believe in Isa (Jesus)." The pastor asked, "And how do you know about Jesus?" They responded, "We listened to the radio message and then we believed." **God's Word cuts through the darkest outposts to reveal the precious story of Jesus to ready hearts.** Pray for this family to grow in their faith and love for Christ.

As our time together ended, one of the local ministry leaders emotionally expressed, "**When we hear these wonderful stories from our countries, God empowers us to minister more. We want to reach the ends of the world!**"

We sat there quietly reflecting on the powerful stories we had heard. Hard hearts were now filled with the love of Jesus. My heart was filled with praise from the precious testimonies of changed lives. **Together, THRU the BIBLE will continue to tell the story of Jesus.**

J E S U S I N

Micah

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

A BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT — 700 YEARS EARLY

Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem; that's a historical fact. Micah picked this location 700 years before Jesus was born, and it shocked everyone. There was little likelihood that one in the line of David could be born there. The odds were against it, because by this time none of David's family still lived in Bethlehem—they were scattered by the captivity. Yet this prophecy was the sole reason the scribes directed the wise men to the small town.

King David's line faced near extermination at the time of the Babylonian captivity. Most thought it was the end of his line. Yet Micah 5:2 says there would be born one in the line of David in Bethlehem. The New Testament picks up that story in both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. They tell how Bethlehem was the place that Jesus, who was of the line and lineage of David, was born.

“Out of you [Bethlehem] shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” –Micah 5:2

To those coming out of the captivity, Bethlehem probably looked dark and dreary. But Micah's prophecy stirred their hope that it would still be possible for the Messiah to come. There was nothing unusual about Bethlehem except that Mary's donkey carried her into that little town right on time, a time set from eternity.

Jesus clothed Himself with humanity in Bethlehem. Micah said, “...whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” He existed before His birth. Jesus told the Pharisees, “Before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58). When God came to Bethlehem, He got something He never had before—the name of Jesus. He received humanity. He was Jehovah (deity), but now He's Jesus and He's a Savior. He came out of Bethlehem to save.

Matthew says His name would be Emmanuel, God with us (see Matthew 1:23). But you're going to call His name Jesus. And He can't be Jesus unless He's Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” He must be a man to take our place, to be our representative, to die a substitutionary death. And it would begin in Bethlehem, Micah said.



WHY STUDY MICAH?

On air **JULY 16—AUGUST 7**
or anytime online, by podcast,
or by mobile app.

How do you please God? The Old Testament prophet Micah answers that question—while raging conflict ravaged the nation and God’s people. This 6th minor prophet has a major lesson to deliver to Israel (and perhaps to us today!).

KEY VERSE

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” –Micah 6:8



CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER BIBLE BOOKS:

- **Micah lived at the same time as other prophets, Isaiah, Hosea, and Amos.**
He likely was friends with Isaiah and wrote on similar themes. The book of Micah has been called a “mini-Isaiah.” Compare Micah 4:1-5 & Isaiah 2:1-4.
- **Matthew 2:6 quotes Micah 5:2** about the Messiah being born in Bethlehem.
- **Micah spoke out against those who looked religious but lived like hypocrites.**
Micah sounded just like Jesus when He talked to religious leaders about their double standards (see Matthew 23).

“For many people, Micah is the favorite of the minor prophets. With remarkable style and beautiful language, if you appreciate poetry and literature, you will appreciate Micah. He would have made a very good war correspondent. His writing is pungent, realistic, and personal and at the same time both trenchant and touching. You’ll find an exquisite beauty about this brochure which combines God’s infinite tenderness with His judgments.”

–Dr. J. Vernon McGee

When Micah wrote, “Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity?” (7:18), he made a word play on his own name, which means “who is like the Eternal?”

LESSON FROM MICAH | Claiming to be a godly nation yet being unwilling to live according to God’s Word will always lead to greater, deeper problems on a national scale.





Loving Each Other Well

Here's something you may not know about Dr. McGee. He loved the book of 1 John (what we're studying on the broadcast right now). You'll notice that he lingers a bit longer in this book—like the way we linger in the company of an old friend. He saw this book as especially valuable to teach in the context of the local church ministry. Each time Dr. McGee transitioned into a new church, it was 1 John he taught first.

Why did he love 1 John? My guess is because it's so practical. Two of the most commonly encountered issues in any church body are: *How do I know I am saved?* (see pages 2-5 for help with that) and *How do we love one another well?* First John addresses both.

Last month, you encouraged me with 1 John in action—your great response to Letter Month. We read or listened to every note, email, voicemail, and text. You told us how God's Word was alive in your life—some of you wrote about how it comforted you, strengthened you, guided you, and challenged you. Sharing your story is part of loving your Bible Bus family. When the Bible comes to life for you, you then are equipped with something worth sharing with others.

Thank you for your partnership in equipping the saints worldwide with your gifts, letters, and prayer.



Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President



WHY STUDY 2 JOHN?

On air **AUGUST 8 — AUGUST 14**
or anytime online, by podcast,
or by mobile app.

Second John is one of the New Testament's shortest letters. Really just a postcard, this loving greeting is from "Pastor John" to "the chosen lady and her children." He addresses the best way to love each other and at the same time guard your heart from false teaching. Wise. Practical. Truth.

KEYVERSE

"And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it." -2 John 1:5-6

"If anyone comes to you and preaches something other than God's Word, don't even let them in the door. Don't wish them 'Godspeed' and don't feel badly about it. Ask the Lord for spiritual discernment before you support any ministry."

-Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Love Matters.
Truth Matters.

BE CAREFUL!

- Be wise about loving and walking with people
- Be wise about what people teach
- Be wise about who you support and entertain

STORIES FROM THE BIBLE BUS

CENTRAL ASIA

-  *"Thank you for your programs, they are good for growing spiritually. Audio programs have started to make a big difference in my life. They are also good to listen to on the go. The fact that the programs are based on the Bible makes them more impactful. As we see the lives of families being changed through believers, we cannot forget to praise the Lord. **I can confidently say that the programs can also touch unbelievers in Christ, because family problems affect everyone.** May God bless you in your work."* **An Uzbek listener in Uzbekistan**
-  *"It's very hard to share the gospel in Afghanistan. There was a man for whom our brothers working there prayed, and they wanted to share the Good News with him. But they didn't know how to start. One day this man was in the hospital because of an accident. Our brothers went to the hospital to visit him. They started to share the gospel and the man said that he already knew about Jesus. His mom listened to the radio program and he accidentally heard about Jesus from the broadcast. Our brothers were very happy that **God prepared the heart of this man, and he accepted Jesus that day in the hospital.**"* **A partner report from Afghanistan**
-  *"Praise God for His Word that guides us. The player is very handy, you can put it in your pocket or even in your bag. Through listening I get a revelation, and sometimes a correction. God's Word is very deep. You can listen to it endlessly. So **thank you that we Kazakhs can listen to the Word of God in our own language.** May the Kazakh people be saved. May God bless your ministry."* **A Kazakh listener in Kazakhstan**



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All Scripture is from the New King James Version
unless otherwise noted.



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