

B.I.B.L.E.

Most of us have heard or read the Bible and know its acronym "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth". I want to take a few minutes to break down those thoughts.

Basic means that which is fundamental. In math the student must understand what numbers mean, as well as functions such as addition, subtract, multiplication and so on. In our lives there are basic ideas which determines how we view life and death. Some of those ideas involve God, His existence, His nature, and His will. Without such fundamental knowledge we will not make good decisions. Unfortunately, many people are deficient in at least one of those areas. Fortunately, the Bible can be read and understood by everyone. Genesis 1 introduces us to God, the creation, and where mankind originated. Solomon tells us why we are here and the "meaning of life." "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Once you learn the basics you can build your life on a good foundation. We can be like the wiseman in Matthew 7. "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." (Matthew 7:24-25). The Basic message of the New Testament is the Savior has come and how we can be saved. Unless one understands Jesus is the son of God and how we can be saved, they will be lost in sin.

Instructions tell us what to do, what not to do, when to do, how to do, and why we are to do. This past week I was very frustrated trying to install some electronic equipment. I understood what it was supposed to do but the instructions were very vague. So, I tried to figure it out by trial and error. Mostly I made a lot of errors. After sometime I tried to get "technical support" only there wasn't a phone number to call. The web site was useless and I

finally gave up. Since then I someone gave me a web address with the instructions. My point being, besides my lack of computer and electronic ability, good instructions are needed. God's word is full of facts as mentioned in the paragraph above but it also instructs us. He instructed Israel to make the tent of meeting, the Ark of the Covenant, and all the furnishings in the tabernacle. He instructs us to be saved by the blood of Christ. We must believe in Him as the Son of God (John 8.24), repent of our sins (Luke 13.3), confess Him (Matthew 10.32), AND BE BAPTIZED FOR THE REMISSION OF SIN (Acts 2.38). Then one must live faithfully according to God's word (Revelation 2.10). There are more instructions in the Bible but these are some of the basic ones.

Before implies there is a limitation and there will be an after. In our case, before, means before death. The Bible is written for our learning, our instruction. This means we have the time right now to sit down and learn what is in the Bible. After death we will be unable to read or do what it says. "For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten." (Ecclesiastes 9:5). The account of Lazarus and the rich man tells us the living have Moses and the prophets to read and understand. We have Jesus, the Apostles, and the inspired writers of the New Testament. Our time to read and study is now.

Leaving means our time is limited as mentioned in the above paragraph but we are going somewhere else. Death is not the end of our existence. We possess a soul, which is eternal and spiritual in nature. Our physical body is limited by its very nature. "The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away." (Psalms 90:10)

Earth is where we are right now but after death we will still exist and await the Day of Judgement. The standard of judgment is the Law of Christ. "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (John 12:48) At that time, all of mankind will either go to hell or heaven for eternity. Dependent on our obedience or lack of obedience to Christ. Our lives will be examined and

those who's sins have been washed away by the blood of Christ and lived faithfully will have the crown of life. As the old song says, "This world is not my home, I am just a passing through" we are leaving earth on the way to eternity.

Take the Bible and use it wisely. – Dennis Tucker