

*(Editor's Note: The following article is by Sean Sullivan. Sean is doing a series of articles aimed specifically at young people going off to college. However, we can all learn a lot from his writings. D.T.)*

## **Do Not Leave The Bible For College**

Introduction: Among our young-people, we have some High School Seniors this year. The pursuit of “higher education” is the goal for many young ones, as they venture out into “life on their own”. It is our constant-hope that all of our young-ones will be able to handle the pressures that their new environments bring. Life, for a child of God, does not have to be from one fear to the next, but there are hazards along the way.

There is good reason for our concern at this time since, truth be told, we lose young people to “the mind of college”—not all, but even one is too many. The pressure to reject one’s raising and to accept humanist-dogma is going to be one of the greatest pressures that these souls face. The focus of this lesson is “Do Not Leave the Bible, for College!” There are great and wonderful reasons to cling to your Bible; it will direct your steps now, in college, and in real-life every day. Let’s consider three great proofs of the Bible.

### **Perfectly Fulfilled Prophecies**

There are other books, beside the Bible, that claim to be of “divine-origin”. The Bible clearly makes this claim: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, “...the mind of God...” 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “...the breath of God...” James 1:17-25, “...good and perfect gift...from the Father...” 2 Peter 1:16-21 “...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” Any book can claim it is God’s word, but what we need is proof.

Only God can make long-term precise-prophecies; not generalities that will likely happen. The Bible prophesies specifics of people, places, powers, and points in time; often separated from their exact fulfillment by many hundreds of years. The fall of cities: Like the City of Tyre: Prophesied in Ezekiel 26 (586 BC) and exactly-fulfilled over a period of hundreds of years—history records the exacting-details of its fall at the hand of “many nations”. The succession

of world powers: From Babylon to the Romans, in perfect order in Daniel—prophesied and a thousand years in fulfillment (Babylonians 600 BC; Persians 539 BC; Greeks 331 BC; Romans 146 BC; then Rome’s split and downfall 400 AD. A thousand years of precise transitions of world powers). The specifics of individual lives: The prophecies surrounding the earthly life of Jesus Christ are over three-hundred exact details—impossible to fake—all flawlessly fulfilled in Him.

Some have suggested that changes were made by men to validate the scripture-record. So, they want you to believe that a world-power-nation is going to simply hand over the keys because a book they don’t believe in needs to be validated!?! These things cannot be changed to match the Scriptures; the Scriptures are from God and are perfect in all prophecy.

### **Enduring Intellectual Accuracy**

Almost every informational-book is in need of updating as time goes by—imagine a Surgeon using a medical-textbook from the 1700s or 1800s—a lot of understandings have changed since those centuries. The Bible, however, is timeless; its knowledge has never required updating; it never will—it is perfect in its information.

**Accuracy of Medicine:** Ancient medicinal-treatments, even among the renown practitioners of Egypt and other places were full of silly concoctions and even dangerous practices. The Bible is not a medicalmanual, but it is very accurate in terms of medical-things and none of the silly concoctions or dangerous practices. The Scriptures’ medical-measures are sensible and always will be. God instructed the people in proper care of contaminations, bodily-cleansing, quarantines for the contagious, even covering one’s mouth when speaking or coughing (Leviticus 13:45-46; Numbers 19:11-12; Deuteronomy 23:12-13).

**Accuracy of Science:** Again, the Bible is not a book of science, but it is accurate and its words were ahead of the current knowledge of the world. When the world believed that a great dragon drank water from the oceans so they did not overflow, God declared the true water-cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:6;

11:3). When the world believed that the Earth was flat, with edges to fall off of, God revealed that the Earth is a sphere (Isaiah 40:2). The world did not know what caused the currents of the oceans, and we did not see what God spoke off for many centuries—we now know that there are indeed “pathways in the ocean-floor”, as God said in Psalm 8:8.

The information revealed by God, through His Holy Word was always valid and remains valid today.

### **The Willing Sacrifice**

The pinnacle of the Scripture-record is discovered beyond the prophesied fall of cities, nations, or powers; and well beyond it daily-life-facts. The true point in time, toward which all the records lead is the earthly-life, ministry, betrayal, death, and glorious-resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior. His earthly-birth, perfectly fulfilled many specific prophecies (Matthew 1:18-25). His ministry directed the people back to God; back to the hope that He would secure (Matthew 4:17). His betrayal was being accused, convicted, and sentenced to death, for crimes He never committed (Matthew 26:17-25; 47-56; Matthew 27:1-66). All of these events lead to the greatest point of hope for mankind, the glorious resurrection of Jesus from mortal death to life-eternal (Matthew 28:1-8; Luke 24:50-53).

We know that Jesus was willing to die for the will of God, but the greater proof of the Bible’s truth was all the others who were willing to die for these words. According to gathered-traditions only one Apostle of Jesus Christ died of old age, all the rest were martyred (Crucified, beheaded, beaten, and speared)—they willingly died for these words. Hoaxes have seen some good-long-runs, but when death is on the line, truth is revealed and the hoax is exposed—even when their leaders die for their hoax, the followers soon reject it (ex. Theudas and Judas of Galilee mentioned in Acts 5:33-39). The Lord’s own Apostles and countless-thousands of His followed, in the first 250 years of Christianity and since, were willing to die for the truth of God—the divine words of truth, the Bible (Revelation 2:10).

There is much more to this collection of words than just an old book. Do not

be moved from its hope.

**Conclusion:**

every year thousands of young people leave their parental-homes and head out into this big-old world full of hopes and goals—many to College. Our young, among the church, do the same. There are many ways in which their faith will be tested; in certain environments more than ever before. Some of us parents would love to say, “Please do not leave for College”—but that request is not very realistic. On the other hand, we are asking all of our young people to not leave the direction of God’s word, for College.

There are valid, proven, and timeless reasons to accept God and His Holy Word. The recorded prophecies of God, have been mocked, but have never failed to be exactly fulfilled. The accurate information of God’s words has been denied, but never proven inaccurate. The word of God has been called a hoax, but countless thousands have willingly sacrificed their lives for its truth. God is real. His word is truth. The hope of life and life eternal is real too. Your opportunity to embrace belief and obedience is real. Do not wait, embrace the hope of the gospel plan, obey God right now. ~tss