

Most Searched, Read, And Marked Bible Passages In 2020

Sunday AM 01/03/21

Introduction:

As we ended 2020 and head boldly into 2021, I got to thinking about the most read Bible passages in 2020. In my research, I found this not to be as easily obtained as you might think. The list below comes from an article in Christianity Today magazine. But what I found interesting is the following.

I) Search Categories

A) BibleGateway

1. Passages related to social issues, politics, and the end times, increased.
2. Pandemic related topics (plagues, diseases, pestilence, etc.) increases at least 10 times in 2020 over 2019.
3. Searches for racism, justice, equality and oppression multiplied by more than 100 after Floyd's death.

Proverbs 21:15 *It is a joy for the just to do justice, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.*

Isaiah 1:17 *Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.*

B) YouVersion Bible App

1. Searches increased by 80% in 2020, totaling 600 million.
2. Most searched, read, and bookmarked passage, ***Isaiah 41.10***.

Isaiah 41:10 *Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*

II) Top Ten Most Read Passages in 2020

1. ***John 3:16***: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and*

only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

2. ***Jeremiah 29:11:*** *For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
3. ***Romans 8:28:*** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*
4. ***Philippians 4:13:*** *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*
5. ***Genesis 1:1:*** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
6. ***Proverbs 3:5:*** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.*
7. ***Proverbs 3:6:*** *in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*
8. ***Romans 12:2:*** *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
9. ***Philippians 4:6:*** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
10. ***Matthew 28:19:*** *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

III) Lessons Learned

A) In times of distress people still turn to the Bible.

1. Man is often like the person who tries to assemble the thing in the box without reading the instructions. Only to search for the

instructions after they have messed up the assembly process.

2. It is best to look at God's word before leaping into action.
3. To seek the word of God—the beginning of wisdom and knowledge is God's word.

B) 2020 was a year of fear, anxiety, and worry

1. The two most used words by Jesus “fear not”
2. Some have said that fear is connected to unbelief. The reason we fear is because we do not believe in God watching over us. See *Phil. 4.16; Romans 8.28*.
3. Worry is setting the worse goal possible it is practical atheism.

C) God addresses “social issues” in His word.

1. How many times have you heard someone say something like “The Bible is irrelevant” or “It is outdated” or “It does not address today's society”?
2. Have you ever read the 10 Commandments? Six of the 10 addresses “social issues” in how we are to treat each other.
 - a. Honor father and mother, *Exodus 20.12*.
 - b. Not murder, *v. 13*.
 - c. Not commit adultery, *v. 14*.
 - d. Not steal, *v. 15*.
 - e. Not bear false witness, *v. 16*.
 - f. Not covet, *v. 17*.
3. Much of God's punishment of Israel was due to their unfair treatment of the poor. Will it be any different today?

D) Most of these passages are reassuring

1. Dealing with love (*John 3.16*); God watching out for us and taking care of us.

2. But what about the passages warning us of hell and its fires?
 - a. Beware, take heed, etc. **Colossians 2:8** *Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*
 - b. **1 Corinthians 10:12** *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*
3. What about the passages condemning what is often called social sins?

Galatians 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*