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

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The Bible is a  
compass and a map.

IT CLEARLY REVEALS  
THE WAY TO GOD.

J. VERNON MCGEE



**THRU**the**BIBLE**



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



## LIVING IN A WORLD THAT HAS FORGOTTEN GOD

Dr. J. Vernon McGee



This article is an excerpt from **“Living for God in a World that Has Forgotten Him.”** You can download the full resource at [TTB.org/booklets](http://TTB.org/booklets).



When the Lord taught the parable of the sower, He said the seed that fell on the rock had “fallen away.” Literally, the seed grew without a root. He likened it to the person who believes for a little while and then falls when temptation strikes. (See Luke 8:13.)

People who “fall away” are called “apostates” in Scripture. They professed to believe, but then they move away from it. They no longer believe; they have departed from the faith. Apostasy would be impossible among unevangelized tribes who have never heard the gospel. An apostate is one who has not only heard the gospel, but who has professed to believe it, and then departs from it.

The book of Hebrews describes it like this:

*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.* –Hebrews 3:12

Those who once said they believed, no longer believe. That’s who we’re talking about. This should make us bow our heads in humility before God and ask for His help. These are days when God’s people need to examine ourselves to make sure we’re in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).

In my own lifetime I have known man after man who once preached the faith, then later on repudiated it entirely. They are apostates. The Word of God warns that this will happen: “In latter times some will depart from the faith.”

All the New Testament writers speak of the approaching apostasy. To them it was just a little cloud on the horizon the size of a man’s hand. But that cloud has now darkened and covered the sky. Today we are in the storm. We are seeing one of the greatest departures from the faith in the history of the church. At the present moment and for some time now the church has been engaged in a great brainwashing program to absolutely get rid of the Word of God.

Believers, now is the time to wake up to the reality of our world—one that has forgotten God. Actually, it's a wonderful hour in which to live! We can still be intelligent and believe the Word of God, that Jesus Christ nearly 2000 years ago intruded into history and died on a cross, that He arose again the third day bodily, ascended back to heaven, and that He is alive today. He has sent the Holy Spirit into the world, and the Holy Spirit has made Him real to multitudes in every walk of life. This is our message, and it is still pertinent for this hour to meet the needs of the human heart.

I feel sorry for the men and women who have departed from the faith. My heart goes out to apostates, because they are lost in the dark without a compass, not knowing where they're going.

Maybe you are lost. Well, I am delighted to tell you that this book, the Bible, is a compass and a map. It clearly reveals the way to God. In it the Lord Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Multitudes who have been lost in this world have come to Him and found it to be true, and *you* can find it to be true even in these days of apostasy.

*I am the way,  
the truth, and the life.*

NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER

*except through Me.*

JOHN 14:6

## MY TURN

### DR. MCGEE ASKS: *HAVE YOU EVER BEEN LOST?*

I used to hunt up in the Tehachapi mountains of California. Once, a friend and I went up to the Kelso Valley to hunt quail. We parked the car and walked a couple miles before coming to a covey of quail. I'd never seen such a large covey—there must have been 200 birds in it. My companion needed to return to the car, but I stayed on and followed that covey as they scattered in every direction. As I followed them, I lost sense of time and direction. It suddenly occurred to me that I was lost. I didn't know which direction to go. The foothills of the Tehachapis are rugged country. I climbed to the top of one of the hills and looked around for a familiar scene. I give you my word, I couldn't see a hill, a tree, or anything that I recognized.

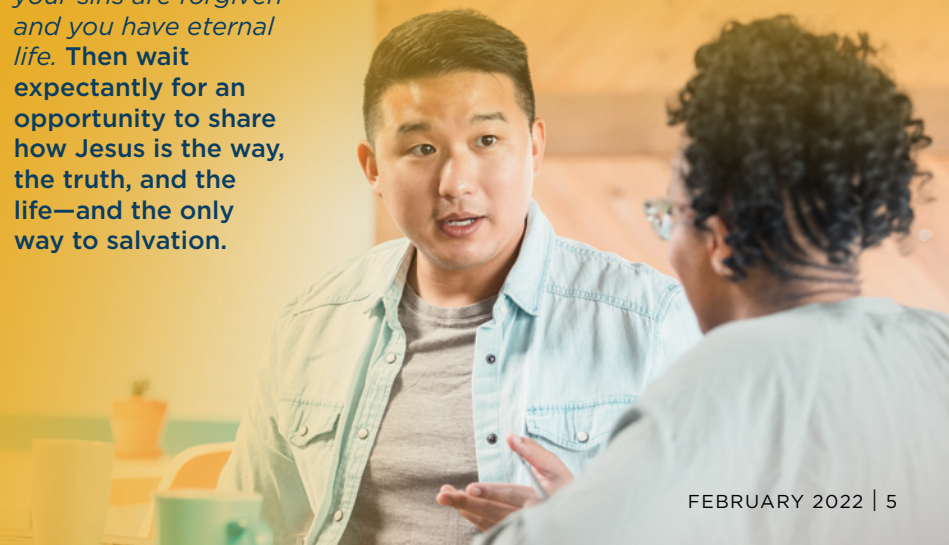
**Without a compass, without knowing where I was, I became absolutely frightened. Believe me, I prayed to the Lord to get me out of that situation.** As I stood there, I thought how tragic it is to be lost in this world and not know where you are going—to have no compass, no map, nothing. Just lost.

**My friend, today multitudes in this world are *lost*. And the tragedy of it is they have wrecked their compass, they have mutilated their map, and they don't know which way to go.**



**Consider someone you know who doesn't yet know the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for them right now.**

*They may or may not recognize they are lost; ask the Lord to make that reality tangible to them, and ask Him to help you be ready to share with them the confidence you have in Jesus Christ that your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. Then wait expectantly for an opportunity to share how Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life—and the only way to salvation.*



# FIELD NOTES

TAKING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

## HAVE YOU HEARD OF WHATSAPP?

Remember when we said we would use any communication method we could to take THRU the BIBLE to the whole world?

Several years ago, a creative ministry partner, Mobile Christian Network, had the idea to share THRU the BIBLE's daily program on WhatsApp, and today it's spreading like wildfire in Africa and South Asia.

**More than 2 billion people in over 180 countries use WhatsApp to communicate every day.** In addition to sending texts, videos, documents, etc. by WhatsApp, people are now sharing THRU the BIBLE with their networks of contacts (up to 250 people at a time).

**AS OF LATE 2021,  
MORE THAN 21,000 SUBSCRIBERS  
LISTEN TO THRU THE BIBLE ON WHATSAPP.**

**5,337 IN ARABIC | 7,470 IN ENGLISH | 7,892 IN TAMIL**



### LISTENER TESTIMONY

**The messages have been a blessing to me during this pandemic.** It heals, gives energy, spreads positivity, and helps me get closer to Jesus. Thank you for the wonderful teaching. This has become my daily consolation. **I ask the Lord to direct your steps and strengthen you to spread this light to all.** *How can I help others to join us?*  
—A Tamil subscriber in India

## FROM OUR WHATSAPP BIBLE BUS FAMILY:

I am a pastor of a small rural church. The church in Africa faces many challenges but is filled with hope and growth. **In the midst of ministering and carrying the burdens of ministry, Dr. McGee's teaching brings me fresh insight and strength as I listen to his simple, profound, and straightforward exposition of God's Word.** I have been blessed by the faithful teaching of the Word of God and am encouraged to put into practice the words of the Bible for me to honor and glorify God in life and ministry.

—Joseph from Malawi

I have been blessed spiritually and my community has, as well. I conduct a Bible study on Fridays at my home (15 in all). **The blessings I received from the Ephesians study are indescribable, and I have the privilege of sharing them with my family. To God be the glory always.**

—Samson from Zambia



Thank you for this study through the Psalms. **It has indeed helped me to really see how large God is and how deep His love toward me is.** Just a chapter of Psalms can explain God's love more than a thousand books out there can. Looking forward to the next book of concentration. I love you all.

—Benson from Nigeria

I am hungry for God's Word. I really want to go to Bible school, but I don't have the money. **I am blessed to be a part of this program, and it's doing wonderful things in my life and the lives of others in my ministry.** Please send me the notes and outlines for Psalms and Ephesians so I can print them and teach Sunday School and Bible studies.

—Justice from Sierra Leone



READ MORE TESTIMONIES FROM  WHATSAPP ON THE BACK COVER.

## FINDING PURPOSE IN THE PAIN

*“My friend, God has purpose in how He is shaping us, and that comforts me. He has a plan, and He knows what He is doing. When God puts us on the wheel of circumstance, He means to accomplish something.”* –Dr. J. Vernon McGee, from our study in Jeremiah

When bad things happen, it's easy to wonder why God allows us to suffer. Have you ever thought maybe He's turned His back or has forgotten you? His Word tells us differently, and so does this listener in Albania. Listen to her great story.

*“I lost a pregnancy and was inconsolable. Since I could not give him a son, my husband left me. I moved back in with my parents and didn't leave my bedroom for months. My parents are from another religion. They were so worried, they allowed a Christian neighbor to start visiting me. Although I would not talk to her, she brought her radio and sat with me every day.*

*“After a few weeks, I felt that God was speaking directly to me. Seeing my interest, my family started listening, too. Today we are together in the faith.*

*“Thank you for those programs in Jeremiah that quite literally kept me from wasting away. I now lead a study for women in my neighborhood. We laugh, cry, worship, and believe God has a purpose in bringing us together.”*

Thank God He has a plan and purpose for our lives. Intercede for all those on the Bible Bus who are suffering. Ask God to show them what He wants to accomplish through this season of suffering and pray through faith they are able to grab ahold of it.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we are traveling the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. We invite you to join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

**GO TO TTB.ORG/PRAY  
TO SIGN UP.**



**THRU**the**BIBLE**

**A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS**

### Blessed to Be a Blessing

When God made His covenant with Abraham, He said, *I will bless you ... so that you will be a blessing* (see Genesis 12:2).

The principle certainly follows for us, too. As God blesses us, we want to bless others.

You do that every day when you pray for others to hear and receive God's Word taught on THRU the BIBLE and when you give joyfully to make that happen. Thank you sincerely.

I thought today you would be blessed by a living example of this. I pulled this note from the report on pages 6-7. Matthew, who rides the Bible Bus in Uganda says, “I listen every day to *Thru the Bible*. I'm writing to thank you for the work you do for God. Your program has helped me to go deep in knowing Him. It is changing my heart and soul. When I listen to God's Word, it always encourages me to reach out and share it with others, too.”

It's a beautiful full circle—as we are blessed, we want to be a blessing to others.

Thank you for your example of this generosity this month. Together we joyfully take God's whole Word to the whole world.

Grateful for your partnership,



Gregg Harris  
THRU the BIBLE, President



# J E S U S I N *Numbers*

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

**“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”**

—John 3:14-15; Numbers 21

We do dumb things when we're tired.

Years now into their wearisome march around the wilderness, the children of Israel complained about everything—and especially against God and about Moses:

**“Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.”** Still and all, Moses persevered with them and prayed for these complainers. **“We want to go back to live in slavery in Egypt ....”**

**Finally, God said, “Enough,” and put an end to their incessant murmuring with a surprising illustration.** He sent fiery serpents among the people, which bit them, and many people died.

**In this tough love, God created a wonderful object lesson and provision for their relief.** He told Moses to make a pole with a fiery serpent on it and to lift it up. If those who had been bitten looked up at it in faith, they would live.

Some would say that sounded like nonsense, and they didn't do it. And they died, of course.

Centuries later when our Lord Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, He said, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.” How was He lifted up? On a cross. **Our Lord was made sin for us. On that cross, He not only took Barabbas' place, but each of our places.**

God permitted this because He loved you, but He just can't save you by His love. It doesn't say, “God so loved the world that He saved the world.” That wasn't the solution. Instead, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ...” (John 3:16).

**The only thing God asks you to do is to “look”—look and live; look to Jesus, lifted up on the cross.** His Son does not deserve to die but is taking your place there. We are each lost, hell-doomed sinners who need to look to the Lord Jesus Christ in order to live. It's just as simple as that.

## WHY STUDY NUMBERS?

Join in the studies on *Thru the Bible* **FEBRUARY 3—MARCH 1** or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

In Numbers we see the children of Israel leave Mount Sinai and march to Kadesh Barnea. After a big failure there, God sent them to wander in the wilderness until that generation died. These years of wandering told a saga of suffering, a trek of tragedy, and a story of straying. The lessons they had to learn are good for us to hear, too, which is why God recorded this history. Pay attention!

*“Pilgrim's Progress' is an apt theme for this book. Here we find the walking, wandering, working, warring, witnessing, and worshiping of God's pilgrims. It's a handbook for all pilgrims, navigating the wilderness road of this world.”* —Dr. J. Vernon McGee

The book of Numbers (meaning “arithmetic”) gets its name from the two times God told Moses to take a census of the children of Israel. **As we study, remember every number has a name, every name has a story, and every story matters to God.**

### LESSONS TO LEARN IN THE WILDERNESS:

- **It's natural to doubt in impossible situations,** but be willing to trust that God is “a Rock in a weary land.”
- **Gratefulness for what we do have** is better than grumbling about what we don't have.
- **God goes with us** through the wilderness.
- **When we disobey God, we will have pain,** but repentance results in hope and forgiveness.
- **God is in absolute control**—of the universe, of world events, of everything that touches you.

### KEY VERSE

*“The Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression....”* —Numbers 14:18

### DISCOVER THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF WALKING WITH GOD:

- ☑ **Follow God** with your whole heart
- ☑ **Listen for His voice** and be ready to obey
- ☑ **Be grateful** for God's provision
- ☒ **Don't put God to the test** of your unbelief
- ☒ **Don't harden your heart** against God or anyone else
- ☒ **Don't grumble** (even in your spirit)

# ON THE ROAD

## *Greetings* FROM THE BIBLE BUS

### CELEBRATE GOD AT WORK THROUGH HIS WORD SHARED VIA WHATSAPP IN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA

**Woah! Getting to know and understand the book of Ephesians has been so incredible.** It has really impacted me so much, and I am transformed by the understanding of the Scriptures.

**LAWRENCE** I have learned a lot from the teachings on Psalms. **The teachings have inspired me to evangelize my community. I recently bought a Bluetooth speaker and broadcast the teaching for the benefit of my community.** Around 50 to 60 people listen to the broadcast daily.

**GABRIEL** Wow, such beautiful, sequential, and great preaching. **This is my spiritual food.**

**AN ARABIC-SPEAKING FRIEND** I have tremendous blessings and gained more knowledge from the expository teachings

**of Dr. McGee.** Our relationship with God, the coming Savior and His suffering for the world, the predestination of the birth of the church, and the provision God made for the Gentiles to worship Him under one Shepherd—Jesus Christ. These truths make me grateful.

**PATRICK**

I thoroughly enjoyed studying Ephesians. I learned insights I had not seen before.

**Thanks for making the Bible come alive through the Bible studies.** God bless.

**IAN**



Box 7100, Pasadena, California 91109-7100  
P.O. Box 25325, London, Ontario, Canada N6C 6B1



1-800 65-BIBLE (24253)



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