

50 Bible Verses Everybody Should Know By Heart

The “Fantastic Four” – Part 2

The Bible is a treasure trove of absolute Truth about the nature of God, mankind, Truth, Authority, Values, and Ethics. But more importantly, the Bible is a book unlike any other because it presents a Faith that is set apart and distinctive from all other religions. Last lesson, we considered two of the cornerstone verses that distinguish Biblical Faith from all other “faiths”. This lesson focuses on two other distinguishing verses.

“Fantastic Four” Verse #3: Romans 6:23

“The WAGES of SIN is death, BUT the GIFT of GOD is ETERNAL LIFE.”

With the possible exception of “fantastic four” Verse #4, no other Text in Scripture better sums up the 66 books and 31,000 Verses of the Bible. Some observations:

This Verse contains to some BALANCED yet CONTRASTING clauses with some primary words that set Biblical Faith apart and make it distinctive and glorious.

WAGES Vs **GIFT** = Wages are what we earn. Eternal life is a GIFT from God.

Sin Vs **God** = Our heart’s orientation is towards ourself (“sin” has an “I” in the middle). We fall short of following God’s Standards and/or being God-Oriented.

DEATH Vs **ETERNAL LIFE** = Sin brings death – spiritual, physical, and eternal. The Spirit brings life.

“Religion” vs Christianity, The canyon and the cross (*cf 2 Tim. 2:5*)

In “religion,” we try to reach God through what we DO. In Christianity, God both comes after us and provides the “bridge” (Christ – His life and death) that connects us on this side of the canyon to God on the other side.

“Fantastic Four” Verse #4: John 3:16

*“For God so loved the world that He gave us His **One and only Son**, that everyone who believes in Him will not **Perish** but have **Eternal Life**.”* Notice how the extra bold capital letters spell out **GOSPEL!**

This is the best known and most likely best loved Verse in the Bible. It has been called many things, including “...a love letter from God, written in blood, and addressed to the world” and “the Greatest Story ever Told.”

- ➔ **God’s GRACE** is demonstrated through the use of “love” (used 56 times in the Gospel of John), which is active, intrusive, and committed to capture our hearts and change us. And this instigative love is to a fallen human race (“the world” – used 77 times in John)
- ➔ **God’s GIFT** is that he GAVE (without any conditions on our part except faith – which is also a gift) His only Son (at great cost to Himself) to live and die FOR US. Again, it’s all about what GOD does for us rather than what we do to deserve or merit a positive response from God.
- ➔ **God’s GOSPEL** reminds us that the requirement by us is simply to believe and trust in JESUS and what He has done for us. Implied is the warning that anything other than 100% TRUST (used 100 times in John) in Christ alone makes us a object of God’s wrath.
- ➔ **God’s GLORY** is demonstrated by giving those who trust in His Son everlasting life (used 36 times in John) by receiving Jesus as their everlasting Savior. Trusting in Christ alone brings God glory and humbles us.