

SLWG Member Spotlight: *We're pleased to present...*

Warren M. Mueller



WARREN M. MUELLER attended parochial grade school for eight years and seriously tried to follow the rules of his faith. However, by the time he was a teenager, he concluded he was a failure and the religious rules seemed only to make him feel guilty. Although he continued to attend church every Sunday, he was just going through the motions. His religious background convinced him that there was a God, he was a sinner and that there was a day of judgment coming for which he was not prepared. When he was in his late twenties, he met a co-worker who was a deacon at a Bible based church. Warren was curious about what the Bible said since he realized that he had never even read one book. His religious training consisted of bits and pieces of the Bible but no systematic study.

Soon after he began to study the Bible a profound change happened. Warren accepted the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as payment for his sins and experienced a profound internal change. Since this happened, the Bible has become a guiding source of truth in his life. His new life and love for Jesus has motivated him to share the truths of the Bible. He has taught small groups and Sunday School classes, served as a deacon, and has spoken in dozens of churches and conventions as a

member of the Gideons. He lives in the St. Louis area with his wife Diane who has been his one and only bride for 32 years. He runs three miles several times each week which he says helps him focus on his dependence on God to give him strength to reach each milestone in life.

Warren's systematic and daily study of the Bible over the past twenty-seven years has shown him that there are many popular ideas among Christian denominations that are not Biblical. In America, copies of the Bible are plentiful but it remains a book that relatively few have read. Therefore, most people do not know what it says. Americans trust theologians or religious leaders, which has resulted in the popular belief that the Bible is hard to understand due to many interpretations or contains contradictions or myths. It is not necessary to have a theological degree or training to understand the Bible. The essentials are a born again faith in Jesus Christ and disciplined study. Seek the advice and counsel of theologians, Christian books and other believers but do not be bound by them. Let the Bible always rule in seeking God's message and perspective. *Truth Seeker* demonstrates that the Bible presents truths on a wide variety of practical and theological issues that come from the mind of God.

Warren lives in the St. Louis area with Diane, his bride of 32 years and has recently become a grandpa. Visit his web site at www.warrenmueller.com for an opportunity to contribute to his next book.

Check out Warren's book:



Title: *Truth Seeker: Straight Talk From The Bible*

Author: Warren M. Mueller

ISBN: 9781589824027

Release date: October 5, 2007

Binding: Soft Cover

Page count: 236

Dimensions: 5 x 8 inches.

Retail cost: \$19.95

Publisher: American Book Publishing

Truth Seeker: Straight Talk From the Bible is for everyone who has ever wondered, what does the Bible really say about..." It is a concise and objective summary of many practical living and theological topics supported by numerous quotes. You will be surprised by some of the popular religious ideas that are not found in the Bible.

Order this book from Publishers Direct Bookstore:

<http://www.pdbookstore.com/comfiles/pages/WarrenMueller.shtml>

Check out this Interview with Warren M. Mueller:

Question: What inspired you to write a book about the Bible?

Answer: I wanted to reduce the controversy and confusion about what the Bible says. This book is a concise summary of what the Bible says on over 30 practical living and theological topics.

Question: Why is there so much controversy and confusion about the Bible?

Answer: Much of this is due to a lack of systematic study. Verses are quoted out of context or the meaning of one verse is not checked against others for consistent meaning. Beliefs about what the Bible says are many times the result of denominational teaching rather than as an outcome of personal study.

Question: What approach do you take when reading the Bible?

Answer: First, set aside some time every day to read. Second, read a chapter or two each time you read to get the proper context. Look for any cross-references to parallel passages in the margins if your Bible has them. I use a concordance to look up the Greek and Hebrew meanings of words. Lastly, I use commentaries and other Christian books to help me if I still feel the need. Sometimes it can take years of prayerful searching before the meaning of something that seems confusing or contradictory becomes clear.

Question: What are some of the popular ideas that you have found are not based on the Bible?

- The consumption of any alcohol is wrong.
- Exercise is a waste of time and is a sign of worldliness.
- The Pope is infallible in matters of religious doctrine.
- The American Revolution was a just war.
- Baptism can only be performed once and there is only one right way.
- There are dress codes for Christians.
- Sunday is a day of rest.
- Money is the root of all evil.
- You need the sacraments to get to heaven.

Question: Is the Bible one of many sources of truth or is it the source of truth about man's purpose and spiritual destiny?

While truth and wisdom may be found in many places, there are statements made by Jesus and others that make exclusive claims about who God is, the sinful state of man and how man can be reconciled to God. Some examples include: John 14:6, Acts 4:12 & John 3:16. Therefore, the Bible is exclusive when it comes to who God is, who we are and how we can have a relationship with God.

Question: The Bible has been copied and translated many times. How do I know that it is reliable?

Answer: Of all the ancient texts, the Bible stands far above all of the others. There are around 24,000 known copies of the New Testament books and 14,000 copies of the Old Testament books of the Bible compared to 1-700 for other ancient texts by such authors as Plato, Aristotle & Homer. The oldest copies of the New & Old Testament books were written about 25 and 150 years after the original versus 400-1600 years for other ancient texts. Finally, the Dead Sea Scrolls have established

the accuracy of the scriptures since they provide a view of what these books looked like 2000 years ago. When modern books of the Bible are compared to their ancient counterparts, they are 98% accurate. Therefore, in order to say that the books of the Bible are not reliable, every ancient book must also be called into question which means we can not know anything about the past with confidence based on written records.

Question: There are many translations of the Bible. How do I know which one is best for me?

Answer: While I have not read every English translation of the Bible, I have read the Revised Standard, American Standard, Living, Good News, King James, New King James and the New International Version. I have found these translations to be very consistent in their content. The differences are more related to literary style and the amount of explanation offered. Therefore, I would recommend any of these translations without serious concerns about corrupting the meaning of the original texts.

Question: How do we know that the books that are in the Bible are the only ones that should be included?

Answer: The main reason I believe that the books of the Bible are the correct ones is that I believe in an omniscient and omnipotent God. The truths and messages in the Bible are critically important to our relationship and understanding of God. If he is all powerful and present everywhere, then he is capable of conveying and guarding what he wants us to know about himself throughout human history. This includes defining and preserving the content of the Bible. However, skeptics will object that this is a faith based answer so I will present some other convincing but not compelling reasons:

1. The Bible was written over 1500 years by over forty men of various backgrounds including farmers, kings, priests, tax collector, fishermen, shepherds & doctor. The diversity of persons, times and places when the books were written should result in an incongruous collection especially since these authors in many cases did not have other books to study. However, there is remarkable consistency among these books (which reflects the mind of God).
2. The Pentateuch or first five books of the Bible were accepted as holy by the Hebrews by 500 BC. The books of the prophets were defined by the Hebrews by 200 BC. The remaining books were accepted even later so these books were carefully chosen after careful consideration over hundreds of years but were defined by the time of Christ. The New Testament books were not selected until 367AD when a bishop named Athanasius lead the effort to canonize them. The New Testament books were likewise chosen after careful consideration of such facts as: the books had to be widely regarded among Christians as authoritative; they had to have been authored by one of the apostles or their disciples and they had to be consistent in content with the other books.
3. The Old Testament books contain 332 distinct predictions which were fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ. The odds of this happening by chance are impossibly small.

Question: What is the purpose of man as described in the Bible?

Answer: The story of the Bible describes God's relationship with man. It describes how man was created for companionship with God with an innocent nature regarding evil. How man experienced evil and became corrupted so that rebellion and selfishness invaded his nature and alienated him from God. It includes many stories showing how even great men could not keep laws defining good and evil so that everyone is guilty of being sinful.

It describes how God provided a way of escape through the sacrificial death of his son. Therefore, the Bible is a story of the fall and redemption of mankind through the suffering and death of God in human form. This demonstrates God's great love for mankind and is the reason for everlasting praise, thanksgiving and worship. The chief purpose of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. We exist for God's pleasure and our goal should be to give God joy in everything we do!