

Q → Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. (James 1:19)

As sinful human beings, our tendencies are sometimes the opposite of this verse; therefore, God has given us good guidance: listen before answering, choose your words carefully, and do not be easily angered. *God's ways are for our benefit!*

R → Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (Exodus 20:8)

This is the third commandment. The Sabbath of Saturday in the Old Testament is similar to the Lord's Day of Sunday in the New Testament. As God created all things in six days and rested on the seventh, so He calls us to set aside one day each week to rest our bodies and receive His blessings of Word and Sacrament!

S → Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness. (Matthew 6:33)

For many, their lives are consumed by their pursuit of food, clothing, and shelter; however, God calls us *first* to be members of His kingdom and righteous in His sight – *both through faith in Jesus!* For all who put Him first, *God promises to provide every need both now and forevermore!*

T → Trust in the LORD with all your heart. (Proverbs 3:5)

"Heart" is the center of one's personality, the seat of his mind, emotions, and will – in summary, his entire being! *That is how much God wants us to trust in Him!* Then we will ✚ have total confidence in His promises, ✚ have His peace that passes all understanding, and ✚ reflect the light of Christ to others in all our ways!

U → Understand that the universe was formed at God's command. (Hebrews 11:3)

God is so awesome that He simply spoke creation into existence; He created all things out of nothing! (Genesis chapter 1) Since God is so awesome, *He can certainly help us with our every need!*

V → Victory rests with the LORD. (Proverbs 21:31)

So what battles are you engaged in? In who are you trusting for help, strength, and victory? Those who trust in self or money or worldly wisdom will certainly fail. Therefore, let us trust in the Lord; *He will give us the victory!*

W → Walk as Jesus did. (1 John 2:6)

Can we do so perfectly? No way, but we can try to live without sin and show love to everyone! We should try to do so in order to show our thanks, but never to earn God favor; *we already have God's favor through our Lord Jesus Christ!*

X → Excel in gifts that build up the church. (1 Corinthians 14:12)

Much in life is *temporal*, yet the Church (made up of all true believers) is *eternal!* All people use their time, efforts, and abilities in some way; may God help us to use them to *build up believers!*

Y → You are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14)

Though Jesus is the true light of the world, we, as His followers, are called to reflect His light (His truth, His love) to the world! As the moon reflects the sun, so *Christians reflect Jesus!*

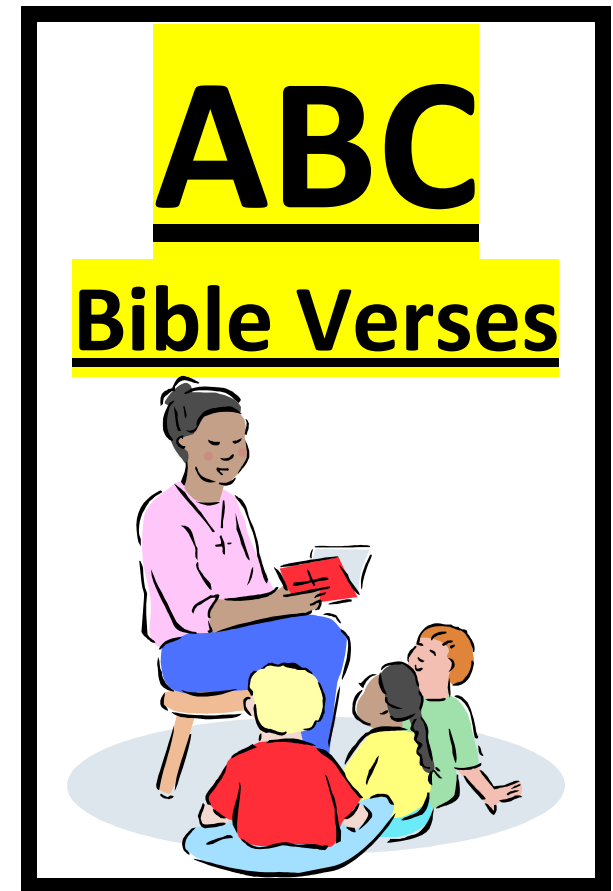
Z → Zion will be redeemed with justice. (Isaiah 1:27)

God is the Redeemer, who purchased us (Zion) with the holy, precious blood of Jesus. God did not overlook our sin; instead, in a just manner, He punished Jesus in our place. *Now, through faith in Jesus, we are saved from our sins!*

All verses are from the New International Version.

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The Bible is *God's Holy Word!* It has been written for our *temporal* and *eternal* benefit. Here are some examples:

- **Spiritual Birth:** "He chose to give us birth through the word of truth ..." (NIV James 1:18)
- **Eternal Life:** "... these [words of John's Gospel] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (NIV John 20:31)
- **Christian Living:** "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (NIV 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

A → All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

The “glory of God” is that all people live *perfect, sinless, holy* lives, but *all have fallen short!* Imagine trying to run and jump over a deep canyon; some could jump 10 or 20 feet, but no one could jump 40. Jesus did what we could not *for us!*

B → Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. (Acts 16:31)

Since we have fallen short, Jesus lived a *perfect, sinless, holy* life for us. Then, on the cross, He received our sins and our eternal punishment. Through trusting in Jesus for eternal life, we are saved from our sins and heaven bound!

C → Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. (Colossians 3:20)

Because the Lord has saved us from our sins and promised us a place in heaven, we are very happy and very thankful, so we try to please the Lord. That includes obeying our parents, *who are God’s representatives in our lives!*

D → Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)

As Christians, we are tempted to get revenge, to do evil to others in the same way they have done evil to us. However, as God’s children, through Jesus, we try to do good to all people, *even to those who greatly sin against us!*

E → Even a child is known by his actions. (Proverbs 20:11)

We know the phrase: *Actions speak louder than words!* If we claim to be Christians, but live like the world, people will quickly see that our words are not true. Instead, God calls us to repent and believe, which will result in showing forth who we are – *God holy children* – in word and deed!

F → Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. (Luke 11:4)

This verse is from Luke’s version of the Lord’s Prayer.

(The full version is in Matthew 6:9-13.) God freely and fully forgives true Christians; therefore, *grateful to God*, they offer that same forgiveness to *all* who sin against them!

G → God is love. (1 John 4:8)

God’s love motivated Him to create all things, *especially people*, who are the most important part. *God created us in order to love us!* Even when we fell into sin, He continued to love us by sending His Son to save us from our sins! *Love is action!*

H → Honor your father and your mother. (Exodus 20:12)

This is the fourth commandment. God’s commands are *for our good!* Children are to honor (love and cherish, serve and obey) their parents because their *parents represent God to them* in their daily lives! *To honor parents is to honor God!*

I → I am the vine; you are the branches. (John 15:5)

A vine *can* survive without a branch, but a branch *cannot* survive without a vine. We received spiritual life through Jesus; furthermore, God keeps us alive in Jesus as He continues to nourish us through *Word and Sacrament!*

J → Jesus wept. (John 11:35)

Jesus is true God, begotten of His Father from eternity, but also true Man, who lived in our place, died for sins, and wept in connection with the death of His friend Lazarus and all who were grieving. *Jesus truly cares for you and for all!*

K → Keep your tongue from evil. (Psalm 34:13)

When God made us His children through Baptism and His Word, He also gave us a new nature that desires to please Him in every way. However, until we physically die, we also continue to have our old (sinful) nature, which is opposed to God. *Though we*

can go against God, let us live unto His glory!

L → Lead us not into temptation. (Matthew 6:13)

This is the sixth petition of the Lord’s Prayer. God does not tempt us (James 1:13-15). Instead, we ask God to lead us away from people, places, and things that may tempt us to sin, which can lead us away from Jesus, our Savior and our Lord!

M → My sheep listen to my voice. (John 10:27)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life so that we might live forever. All who trust in Jesus for eternal life are His sheep. All such people *desire to listen to Jesus* by spending quality time in the Word and attending Divine Service!

N → No one can serve two masters. (Matthew 6:24)

Who controls your life? Is it God or money? Answer by looking at your life! For example, what is better: Your worship attendance or work attendance, your Bible time or Internet time? *It’s always best to be controlled by God!*

O → O LORD my God, I take refuge in you. (Psalm 7:1)

The Psalm that inspired Martin Luther to write “A Mighty Fortress” begins like this: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1) No matter what happens in our lives, God wants us to look to Him, trust in Him, rely on Him, and be at peace in Him! *We are so blessed to have the Almighty God as our refuge!*

P → Praise the LORD. (Psalm 149:9)

The Lord has created us, saved us, and daily provides all of our needs! *He is worthy* of all these words and more: “Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” (Revelation 7:12) *Let us praise the Lord every day and in every way!*