



EVANGELICAL CHURCH MAHWALALA

BIBLE STUDY

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

By Pst. Mfundo Mohammed

pastor@ecmahwalala.org

+268 7641 7118



FOR THE PROCLAMATION, CONFIRMATION AND DEFENCE OF THE GOSPEL

1. BACKGROUND

- What comes to mind when we say, “Bible Study”
- What do you expect to do?

Revelation 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

- Who is speaking?
- To whom is he speaking?
- Which book is he referring to?
- As Evangelicals, it is imperative that we:
 - do Bible Study.
 - have the correct approach in doing bible study.
- Over the next weeks, we will be considering THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY; particularly for the Evangelical Church.

1.1. Outline

- BIBLE STUDY
- THE BIBLE
 - THE BIBLE LEADS TO KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GOD
- THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH
 - THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH.
 - THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH DISTINCTIVES
 - THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH CONSTITUTION
- THE MODERN PROBLEM
- FINALLY

2. BIBLE STUDY

- Bible study is the practice of reading, interpreting, and applying the Bible.
- It is a way for Christians to deepen their faith, connect with God, and find guidance and divine inspiration.
- Bible study can be done individually or in groups, and it often involves using study guides, devotional materials, and prayer.



2.1. Tools For Bible Study

- A Bible – preferably a hard copy
- Highlighter, Pen or pencil
- Notebook or notepad
- A focused mind.
- An open heart



3. THE BIBLE

- The Bible is the Word of God; written across many generations, by different authors, under different circumstances.
- The Bible tells us about Good and Evil and the consequences of it.
- **The Bible outlines God's Redemptive Plan to save mankind.**
- This Redemptive Plan includes the TRINITY
 - The Father
 - The Son
 - The Holy Spirit
- The central character in the Bible story is YAHWEH = God.
- He is always working to redeem His creation from sin and leading His creation to righteousness

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.



3.1. The Bible Leads To Knowledge About God

- The Bible enables you to know about God
- When you free your heart to the Holy Spirit, the Bible presents a way to experience God.

***Proverbs 9:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

- The starting point is receiving the Lord, as Saviour in your life.
- You will get a better way of receiving the Word of God.

***Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

- When you receive Jesus Christ as Lord and saviour, you welcome the Holy Spirit who is your helper.

***Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

- When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit convicts us and we change our ways to conform to the will of God.
- That still small voice that guides your actions and thoughts.
- When you read, understand and apply the Word of God in your life, the Holy Spirit convicts you.
- **Think of a verse that convicts you.**
- As it convicts you, you become transformed, regenerated into a new being.

***Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

- This highlights the importance of the Bible, The Word of God.
- The Bible
 - is our Spiritual bread.
 - nourishes us spiritually, so that we grow in every aspect of Life.
 - is The Word of God
- The Word of God was spoken to, written by, and compiled by people through the Holy Spirit.



3.2. The Bible Must be Taught Correctly

- The Word of God is interpreted by us today and taught by us today

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

- So there is a great risk when we do not correctly handle the Word of Truth.
- As Christians, we need to have preachers that will faithfully preach the Word of God.
- Preach in all circumstances and situations.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- This is why it is important that we have and all participate in Bible Study as a local church.

4. THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

- An evangelical church is a Christian church that emphasizes the experience of conversion, the authority of the Bible, and the importance of sharing the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ with others.
- Evangelical churches typically believe in the core tenets of Christianity, including the Trinity, the divinity of Jesus Christ, and salvation through faith in Jesus' atoning sacrifice.
- **Our denomination is called the Evangelical Church**
- This is the registered name of our denomination, where applicable.
- Being a member of the Evangelical Church denomination does not make us any better than other churches, including other Evangelical Churches.
- It is our actions, individually and collectively, that will bring Glory to the Lord God, our Saviour, **"For The Proclamation, Confirmation and Defence of The Gospel"**
- The challenge is that different [evangelical] churches may differ in the interpretation of the Bible, hence the Evangelical Church has its Statement of Faith, which highlights our core beliefs.



4.1. The Evangelical Church Statement Of Faith.

- The Evangelical Church has a STATEMENT OF FAITH derived from the Bible.
 - It highlights what we, as the Evangelical Church denomination, believe in.
 - The STATEMENT OF FAITH is available on the Evangelical Church International Council website, <https://www.evangelicalchurchinternational.org/beliefs/>:
- I. **We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments**, to be the inspired Word of God without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man and the divine and final authority for Christian faith, life and conduct.
 - II. **We believe in One God**, Creator of all things infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons; **Father, Son and Holy Spirit**.
 - III. **We believe in Jesus Christ**, without any change in His eternal Deity, became a man through conception by the Holy Spirit and virgin birth, that He died on the cross, a perfect and complete sacrifice, in our stead and for our sins according to the Scriptures. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into Heaven where at the right hand of the Majesty on High (God Almighty), He is now our High Priest and Advocate.
 - IV. **We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ**, and during this age, to convict of sin and regenerate the sinner upon believing in Christ, at the time of regeneration baptising the believer into the only Body of which Christ and to indwell, guide, fill and empower the believer for godly living and service.
 - V. **We believe that all the saved should manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit** by living a life which brings honour and glory rather than reproach to the Lord Jesus Christ, and that God commands that believers must stay clear from false doctrines, sinful pleasures, practices and associations.
 - VI. We believe that **the gifts of the Holy Spirit** as revealed in the Scriptures are given for the **purpose of edifying the Church of Jesus Christ** and are to be used in an orderly manner to avoid confusion and division among the believers.
 - VII. We believe **that man (Adam)**, was directly created by God in His own image; but being tempted by Satan, Adam **fell into sin**. That resulted in him acquiring a sinful nature that spread from Adam to the entire human race. The entire human race is, therefore, lost. Only through repentance, faith in Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
 - VIII. **We believe that atoning death of Jesus and His resurrection provide the only way to justification and salvation for all** who believe and that only such as receive Jesus Christ by personal faith are born of the Holy Spirit and, thus, become children of God.
 - IX. **We believe that the church is composed of all such persons** who through the saving faith in Jesus Christ have been **regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ**, of which He is the head.
 - X. **We believe that water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper** are ordinances that must be observed by the church even though they are not the means of salvation.



- XI. We believe in the existence of the Devil/Satan** as a veritable [real] being who, in collaboration with the fallen angels, **frustrates in numerous ways** servants of God and the Church of Jesus Christ in fulfilling God's plan on earth.
- XII. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead;** of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord; and of the unbeliever to judgement and everlasting conscious punishment in the lake of fire
- XIII. We believe in the personal pre-tribulation, pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ** and that this blessed Hope has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.

- These are derived from the Bible, highlighting the importance of Bible Study for us as Christians.
- It is possible that there are many other churches that have the same statement of faith.
- Hence the Evangelical Church also has DISTINCTIVES.

4.2. The Evangelical Church Distinctives

- The Evangelical Church has a Distinctives, they outline key interpretations of the Bible that distinguish us apart from other denominations and churches.
- A PDF copy of the Evangelical Church Distinctives may be downloaded via <https://www.evangelicalchurchinternational.org/resources/files/THE-EVANGELICAL-CHURCH-DISTINCTIVES.pdf>
- An extract from the INTRODUCTION
 - *Every Denomination has its own differences from other Denominations.*
 - *Although all believing in one Triune God and one Holy Bible, we have certain Distinctives with regard to certain doctrinal interpretations and practices.*
 - *For mutual understanding and brotherly harmony in preaching the Word of God within this Denomination, it is absolutely imperative that all Christian workers under the umbrella of the Evangelical Church should not only subscribe but also uphold, observe and comply with our Distinctives.*
 - *However, Evangelical Church Christians, while holding on to our Distinctives, are encouraged to respect other denominations' doctrinal views and Distinctives.*
 - *For we are all the children of God's Kingdom if we are born again.*
- As Evangelical Church Members, we need to know them, as they outline key interpretations of the Bible that set us apart from other denominations and churches; further highlighting the importance of Bible Study for us as Christians.



- In addition, the Evangelical Church has guides how we work, in relation to each other as members, and the leadership structures at various levels.

4.3. The Evangelical Church Constitution

- In addition to the Evangelical Church STATEMENT OF FAITH and DISTINCTIVES, there is the Evangelical Church CONSTITUTION.
- These are Bible based principles that provide guidance on how the EVANGELICAL CHURCH operates.
- It is therefore, important that we agree on how we will work together, in relation to each other as members, and the leadership structures at various levels.
- Furthermore, we live in a world where the Justice happens in the national courts, which will refer to the constitution in settling matters.
- The Evangelical Church CONSTITUTION is reviewed every 10 years, through a structure and process outlined in the constitution [Article XVI – Amendments of this Constitution], to respond to pertinent issues that affect the effective governance of the Evangelical Church.
- A PDF copy of the Evangelical Church CONSTITUTION may be downloaded via https://www.evangelicalchurchinternational.org/resources/files/EC_Constitution_2019_ENGLISH.pdf
- Your membership to the Evangelical Church implies that you agreed with the constitution.
- One of the statements in the PREAMBLE reads

NOW THEREFORE We, the members of the Evangelical Church acting in unity of purpose, guided by the Holy Spirit and Teachings of the Holy Scriptures do reaffirm and bind ourselves to the aims, ideals and objectives of this Constitution for the good of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the spiritual growth and upliftment of our members. To that end, we commit and surrender ourselves to the service of the Almighty God, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

- If we were perfect Christians, living with other perfect Christians, there would be no need for the Evangelical Church STATEMENT OF FAITH, DISTINCTIVES, or the CONSTITUTION; further highlighting the importance of Bible Study for us as Christians.



5. THE MODERN PROBLEM

- We are living in a time of Spiritual Openness.
- In the age of technology and AI, we then become vulnerable.
- Through phones, computers, TV, radio? We are exposed to all kinds of teachings.
- People want to be in touch with the inner man.
- People are eager to find their purpose in life.
- People want to matter.
- Hence the issue of spirituality is very common.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

- How do you know if you are subscribing to the correct teaching?
- The question is how do you know what is proper and what is improper?
- When you tune in to a Christian portal, how do you tell if the doctrine is correct or not.
- There are many false prophets

Matthew 24:23-24 Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

- The Bible is our life manual
- As Evangelical Church members, we need to be comfortable in studying the Bible in order to live according to it; and also discern any false doctrines.

5.1. When Should we do Bible Study?

- Individually; as couples; as families; at work; at church; before prayer; Bible study time; Sermons; Lessons; in fellowships; before meetings.
- Whenever you get the chance.
- If you take all of these, seriously, you will do Bible Study and see yourself grow.



6. FINANLLY

- BIBLE STUDY is important in the life of a Christian.
- Bible study is the practice of reading, interpreting, and applying the Bible
- It's a way for Christians to deepen their faith, connect with God, and find guidance and direction.
- Often in group settings, to understand its teachings and their relevance to daily life.
- Bible study can be done individually or in groups, and it often involves using study guides, devotional materials, and prayer according to some sources.
- Have a Bible – preferably a hard copy; Highlighter, Pen or pencil; Notebook or notepad; A focused mind and an open heart.
- The Bible is the Word of God; written across many generations, by different authors, under different circumstances.
- The Bible tells us about Good and Evil and the consequences of it.
- The Bible outlines God's redemptive plan to save mankind.
- The Bible enables you to know about God
- When you free your heart to the Holy Spirit, the Bible present a way to experience God.
- When you read, understand and apply the Word of God in your life, the Holy Spirit convicts you.
- As it convicts you, you become transformed, regenerated into a new being.
- So there is a great risk when we do not correctly handle the Word of Truth.
- BIBLE STUDY is a critical part of your Spiritual growth as a Christian
- **LET US DO BIBLE STUDY.**

