

2018

New Year, Same Book

Craig Smith • December 31, 2017

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

History teaches us that we don't have to read our Bible, we get to...

*I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.
(Psalm 119:16)*

**There is no book like it – “All Scripture is God-breathed...”
(2 Tim. 3:16)**

- **Co-authored with people** – “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” **(2 Peter 1:20-21)**
- **Preserved through history** – “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” **(Matt. 5:18)**

- **True and sufficient** – “Every word of God is flawless...Do not add to His words, or He will rebuke you and prove you a liar.” **(Prov. 30:5-6)**

🔍 **Note: sometimes truth can be uncomfortable** – “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye?” **(Luke 6:41-42a)**

- **Useful for life and faith** – “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.” **(2 Tim. 3:16-17)**
- **Powerful and effective** – “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” **(Heb. 4:12)**

Make 2018 a year of learning and living God’s truth – “It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth.” **(3 John 3)**

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever. (Isaiah 40:8)