

A Different *Slant* on the Bible

There's a Bible out there to suit everyone's taste! That's right! You can now select from dozens of Bibles! One is sure to suit your style! Just look at some of today's offerings!

NIV New Woman's Devotional Bible

The NKJV American Patriot's Bible

The KJV God Calling 365-Day Devotional Bible
(Includes excerpts from the book, *God Calling*.)

The NIV Prayer Bible

The Voice Bible ("Uses attention-getting screenplay, poetry, and novel-like formats.")

NLT Spirit-Filled Life Bible

NIV Ragamuffin Bible

NIV Busy Dad's Bible

RVR 1960 Woman, Thou Art Loosed Bible

ESV MacArthur Drawing Near Devotional Bible

The Expanded Bible

NIV Great Rescue Bible

NIV Sequin Bible (It has sparkles on the cover.)

NKJV Ignite: The Bible for Teens

NIV Rock-Solid Faith Study Bible for Teens

NIV Youth Quest Study Bible

The Story, NIV—Teen Edition (Just how many Bibles does a teen need!?)

ICB Polka Dot Bible ("Perfect for your budding fashionista, with tools to help her grow!")

NIV FaithGirlz! Backpack Bible (A portable Bible for tweens.) (There's one for boys too.)

KJV Homeschool Mom's Bible

Tsk. Tsk. Tsk.

I realize that some of these are simply Bibles with 'cool covers' intended to appeal to kids. Yet many contain the scripture intermingled

with commentary intended to give a predefined focus to the text, a particular *slant* to the word.

Without judging the sincerity of those who have compiled and published these *specialty* Bibles, one cannot help but wonder: "Is God's word different for each one of us?"

What was God's purpose in revealing his Word and sending Jesus to die for our sins?

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.... (Romans 12:2)

I fear that man has been *transforming* the Bible into his own image. For many, God's word has lost its appeal, so man's words are added. Man appeals to the individualized tastes of people, yet God has appealed to man's greatest need of all through the cross of Jesus:

And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself. (John 12:32)

There are difficult passages in the Bible. YOU need to wrestle with the difficult passages, not simply hand your mind over to someone else. How many times did Jesus end a parable with, "He who has ears, let him hear." Understanding is for those who desire it, who spend time in the word, and who use spiritual discernment. Understanding is not an academic pursuit any more than auto mechanics. It is seldom accidental, easy or convenient. You must apply yourself to the *reading* of the scriptures and the *practice* of God's word.

But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. (Hebrews 5:14)

There is a time to simply read the word; no notes, no commentary, no helps. Just listen.

Mark Stinnett