

The Whisper Party Game

I am sure we have all played the party game when we stand in a line. A person at one end of the line is told a sentence. They whisper what they heard to the next person in line, as it is passed on down the line. The last person says out loud what he heard, giving everyone a big laugh. It is amazing how much the original sentence changed as each person seemed to put their own spin on what was said. As a result, the original meaning was dramatically changed.



In our everyday lives we tend to have our own interpretation of something that was said or seen. Multiple witnesses often have entirely different perspectives of what happened. There are usually three perspectives: what each person thought happened and what really happened. A person's perspective is often slanted because of what they wanted to happen.

When reading the Bible it is easy to interpret God's Word based on our own desires. Some people want to think God's Word is outdated, obsolete or having little or no relevance to us today. Others may think their own modern-day insight is of equal or greater importance to what is actually written in the scriptures. Yet, the Bible says: *Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar (Proverbs 30:5-6).*

Our Small Group bible study group has spent many years with video lessons by bible historian Ray Vanderlaan. His lessons are taped on location, showing the culture and setting for each faith lesson. While the language, terminology and customs are different the meaning of God's Word does not change. Seeing where everything happened actually cements the authenticity of the lessons of the Bible.

The Bible is flawless – perfect, sufficient and without error. In the Book of Revelation, the Bible says: *I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll (Revelation 22:18-19).*

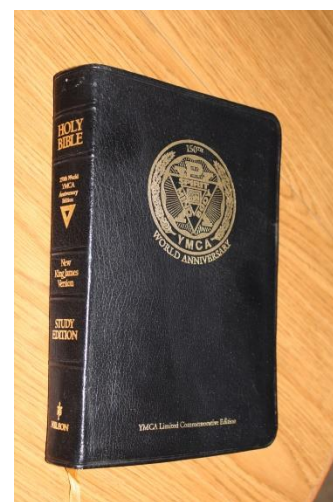
I urge you to resist the temptation to make scripture say what you want it to say. During his preaching the late Rev. Billy Graham often said, "The Bible says." Those three words say it best. It doesn't matter what our opinion is on something. What matters are God's teachings that are clearly printed out for us in the Bible.

Playing the whisper party game – repeating and interpreting what we think we heard -- will result in unintelligible nonsense as it is passed on down the line. There is only one source of truth. Each of us needs to read the Bible first-hand and not manipulate God's Word.

The Bible Says: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)*

Question: How often do you spend time reading your Bible?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. It is amazing. You provide us access to your very Words through our Bible. We pray we will diligently read your Word as it is written and not seek our own fallible version of the truth. Amen.



Introduction for email: In my own devotional writings I try to give modern day examples that show scripture is as relevant today as when it was first written. It is my hope I will never manipulate scripture for my own purpose, but instead, use the examples to show God's Word in action today. Our goal in reading the Bible is to apply it to our daily life, not change it to suit our needs.