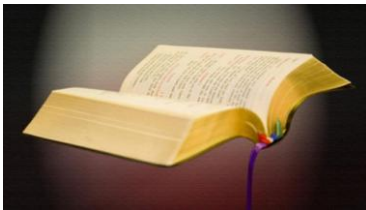# Does the Bible Still Matter in 2012?

By [Lamar Vest](#)
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Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: *Although many Americans claim to receive instruction from the Bible, many of those same people are biblically illiterate. The Bible teaches that the Word of God is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). In a spiritual sense, to not know the Word of God is like trying to run in the darkness without a flashlight. Many believe that the problems in our nation stem from bad politicians making bad laws. Instead, could it be that the root cause is that people don't know or care what God's word says and therefore elect fools to rule them.*

> *"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God , "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the Lord* [because people no longer care to read it]. *Amos 8:11*

> *In those days there was no king in Israel [Jesus and His word no longer on the throne in people's lives]; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 21:25 NKJV*

After all the very visible fighting about public displays of religious symbols—from 10 Commandments plaques to graveyard crosses to faith-themed war memorials to holiday manger displays—you might have developed the impression that most Americans don't think the Bible matters today and they like it that way.

You'd be wrong.

There is a lot of speculation about both the current role and the appropriate role of the Bible in America. But each year, American Bible Society puts the guessing aside and asks a sampling of Americans to tell us how they view and use the Bible and what they believe its role should be in America. Recently, American Bible Society released this year's results from that research in the 2012 State of the Bible report.

The State of the Bible in America in 2012 can be summed up in a two words: encouraging and unsettling.

The research, commissioned by American Bible Society and conducted by Barna Research, found that the majority of Americans (69%) believe the Bible provides answers on how to live a meaningful life. But while 79% believe they are knowledgeable about the Bible, 54% were unable to correctly identify the first five books of the Bible. And approximately half of Americans surveyed didn't know the fundamental differences between the teachings of the Bible, Koran and Book of Mormon, with 46% percent saying they believe all three books teach the same spiritual truths.

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