

The Pueblo Bible



Psalm 119:9-16

“Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee” (*Psalm 119:11*). If we had no access to any Bible at all, how much of God’s Word would be in our hearts?

In 1968 the USS Pueblo and its crew were wrongfully seized by North Korea, who said the ship had violated territorial waters. The Pueblo crew’s religious materials, including Bibles, were confiscated by the North Koreans upon their capture.

Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Harris reported that a deep belief in God helped the ship’s 82 crewmen survive their 11-month imprisonment. His own Bible was taken from him at the point of a bayonet, but the enemy could not take away God’s Word which was at home in the hearts of the crewmen.

Harris gave this account: “Snatches of hymns, elements of worship services, precious bits of Scripture were written on leftover scraps of paper. This unorthodox, but living, vital document became known as the ‘Pueblo Bible.’ In our unchurched, unlearned way we turned to God, as prayer groups and secret Biblical discussions sprang up among those who were not in solitary confinement.”

Harris said when the Pueblo Bible was discovered, he received a “new set of bruises,” but he was brought out of despondency by the memorized Scripture.

Such an incident causes us to reflect on the importance of hiding God’s Word in our hearts where no one can take it from us. How much of God’s Word have we committed to memory? How many verses can we recite? Are there any chapters in the Bible that we could write out from memory? Psalm 23 might be one, but are there others? When sharing with an unsaved person, do we have salvation verses right at hand in our memory bank?

“Let the Word of Christ dwell **in you** richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another” (*Colossians 3:16*).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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