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## The Bible: Still a Comprehensive Companion for the Complex Christian

*A Commentary by Jason Curry*

I have always appreciated the honesty and forthrightness of the students that I have taught over the past fifteen years. Even though I was raised to refrain from saying the first response or idea that came to my mind, I found that there is something refreshing, informative and often delightful about hearing people state their opinions with both candor and conviction. On one occasion, I asked a student if he found any value in attending religious services on or off campus. He told me: "I used to, but not anymore Dean." After I recovered from his abrupt and jarring response, he began to tell me that he was "making moves," and "on the grind" and that there was no way that Christianity could possibly "keep up with" his complex life. The ecclesiastical course titled Ministry 101 told me that I must "meet people where they are," therefore, I listened to his story with great interest and enthusiasm. When I was listening to the young man, I was also praying for insight and guidance

from the Holy Spirit, and then I began to tell him that I believed that the bible was still a comprehensive guide or companion for the complex person or Christian.

The initial point that I made to the young man was that many people in the bible were extremely complex; however, they found the need to have Jesus or God in their everyday lives. David was complex inasmuch as he was a man of war (Psalm 144:1), nevertheless he found the need for God, as reflected in the book of Psalms, to be a part of his life. The disciple named Peter was complex inasmuch as he loved Jesus, denied Jesus (Mark 14:66-72), fought for Jesus (John 16:10), and ultimately preached salvation through Jesus as recorded in the book of Acts. Jesus was complex inasmuch as he was a healer, a teacher, a miracle-worker, a deliver and the Savior as well as person who promoted love and justice. In fact, the list of busy, complicated, confused or complex people who

needed Jesus and/or God spans more than two thousands years of salvation history. Secondly, I told him that if he wanted wisdom and confidence to address the complex challenges of life such as birth, death, material prosperity, anxiety, disappointment, despair, confusion and evil without turning to illegal and immoral behavior, then the bible was the right book for him. At the end of the conversation, I began to see a sparkle of hope in his eyes. He didn't come to Chapel, but over time, I could see the light of Christ brightly shining in his life again. Praise be to God for the good things God has done.



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