

The World's Most Dangerous Book?

By Steve Davies

It's currently banned or restricted in more than 40 countries throughout the world. Tens of thousands have been burned or destroyed in the past 10 years alone. The public reading of it is banned in US state schools.

So what kind of hideously demented document are we talking about here? Mien Kampf (Hitlers' biography and political ravings)? Nursery rhymes of Marilyn Manson? No, none other than The Holy Bible. Why all the fuss over a book that's nearly 2000 years old? It simply teaches people to love God and love people - and, after all, has been on the world's best seller list for nearly two millennia.

But the reality is that the Bible is a dangerous book, because it makes the human race face up to their failings and depravity. For many this is simply unacceptable. So let's look at a few areas where the Bible has been dangerous.

The Bible is dangerous to TYRANNY. (the cruel and unjust use of power)

One of the central themes of the Bible is liberty. It's everywhere - from the Old Testament account of God delivering the Israelites from slavery to the Egyptians right through to the New Testament's liberation of mankind through Jesus. Everywhere the biblical worldview has infiltrated, freedom has followed:

- Freedom of religion
- Political freedom
- Freedom of speech and expression

In contrast to this we only need to look back at the 20th century to see the results of atheistic worldviews, with well over 100 million people killed under the world's communistic regimes.

The Bible is dangerous to INJUSTICE.

For the past 2000 years, the biblical worldview has inspired many to stand against injustice. Check out some of these guys from history and see the amazing effect a few committed people can have on society.

William Wilberforce and John Newton fought for over 50 years and finally stopped the horrible slave trade in England

Reverend Martin Luther King launched a campaign of equality for all people a dream that is still affecting today's culture.

The Bible is dangerous to POVERTY.

Many of today's aid programs have their roots firmly in the biblical ethos of charity. Organisations such as World Vision, Tear, The Salvation Army and Compassion have a long and trusted history of social action and meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of some of the world's poorest and neediest people.

'When a poor person dies of hunger, it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her. It has happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that

person what he or she needed.'
- Mother Theresa.

No woman has had a greater impact on the world's poorest or richest people. In here lifetime, she cared for thousands of the poor, sick and dying. She also challenged some of the most powerful leaders to their responsibility to do the same. Her charity has grown from 12 sisters in India to more than 3000 in 517 missions throughout 100 countries worldwide.

The Bible is dangerous to our SELFISHNESS.

It challenges us all to think of others and not just ourselves.

In the words of Jesus: 'Do to others what you want them to do to you.' Just imagine what sort of world we would live in if we all lived according to the words of the Good Book!

There have always been people who predict the end of Christianity and the extinction of the Bible. The well-known atheist and French author, Voltaire, once held up a copy of the Bible and confidently declared, 'In 100 years, this book will be forgotten and eliminated'. Ironically, after his death, the Geneva Bible Society bought Voltaire's house for printing the Bible.

While Voltaire's books have been relegated to the dusty shelves of libraries, the Bible is still a bestseller. As the first religious book to be taken into outer space (on microfilm), it was used by one of the astronauts to read from Genesis 1:1, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....'

So much for a book Voltaire said would be extinct by 1850.