

A person is shown from the chest down, sitting and reading a book. They are wearing a grey button-down shirt and dark pants. The background is softly blurred, showing a window with light coming through, a potted plant with green leaves, and a brown woven basket. The overall mood is peaceful and unhurried.

# Unhurried Rhythms

Everyday Practices for Everyday People



**The Bible People Talk About  
Vs.  
The Actual Bible**



- “If only you Americans could get over worshiping ancient texts.”
- Christianity is an “authoritarian belief system for which there’s no evidence at all.”
- The “magic book says it’s OK to hate gays.”



## **Rosaria Champagne Butterfield:**

**“Christians always seemed like bad readers to me, too. They appeared to use the Bible in a way that Marxists would call ‘vulgar’—that is, common, or in order to bring the Bible into a conversation to stop the conversation, not deepen it.”**



**“‘The Bible says’ always seemed to me like a mantra that invited everyone to put his or her brain on hold. ‘The Bible says’ was the Big Pause before the conversation stopped.”**



- Historically suspect
- Morally suspect
  - Irrelevant
  - Out of date
- Contradictory



**The actual Bible is much more compelling than the imaginary Bible people reject.**



- 1. The Bible people reject is . . .**
  - a. A “flat” book of rules.**





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a. A “flat” book of rules.

**b. A translation based on a translation based on a translation.**



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- c. A collection of premodern myths to explain what science now explains.**



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- f. An opiate of the masses.**



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**a. A collection of 66 diverse books.**



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- a. A collection of 66 diverse books.
- b. Attested by thousands of ancient, original-language manuscripts.
- c. Focused on explaining not natural phenomena, as does science, but the human condition.
- d. A reliable, brutally honest account of history.**



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**e. The saga of the Creator's victory that He graciously shares with His people.**



## **2. The actual Bible is . . .**

e. The saga of the Creator's victory that He graciously shares with His people.

**f. A call to live lives defined by the cross of Jesus Christ.**



**3. So how should we read  
the actual Bible?**



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**a. Sensitive to the saga**



### **3. So how should we read the actual Bible?**

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**b. With Christ's Cross at the center**



### **3. So how should we read the actual Bible?**

- a. Sensitive to the saga
- b. With Christ's Cross at the center
- c. Laying down hostility and defensiveness**



### **3. So how should we read the actual Bible?**

- a. Sensitive to the saga
- b. With Christ's Cross at the center
- c. Laying down hostility and defensiveness
- d. Open to experiencing what others have found compelling**