

Can You Believe This City Is the Most Bible-Minded in America?

The title of America's most Bible-minded city has been awarded to a Tennessee city for three of the last four years. Chattanooga has once again topped American Bible Society's annual ranking of *America's Most Bible-Minded Cities*. Tennessee is the only state with three cities in the top 10, with Tri-Cities ranking in fifth place and Knoxville taking eighth place.

American Bible Society's third-annual study of *America's Most Bible-Minded Cities* found that cities in the South, specifically the Bible Belt, continue to perform strongly in Bible friendliness. The Birmingham/Anniston/Tuscaloosa, Alabama, area, which topped the 2015 list, ranked second this year. It is followed by Roanoke/Lynchburg, Virginia, and Shreveport, Louisiana. Lexington, Kentucky, rose from No. 15 last year to claim the No. 10 spot in 2016, while Springfield, Missouri, dropped out of the top 10 for the first time. Jackson, Mississippi, dropped from seventh to 15th.

The rankings are calculated using data collected by Barna Group. Each city's Bible-mindedness is determined by analyzing survey respondents' Bible-reading habits and beliefs about the Bible. The most Bible-minded respondents said they read the Bible in the past seven days and believe strongly in its accuracy. Nationally, only 25 percent of the population was considered Bible-minded.

"We've seen the same five cities dominate the top five spots consistently," said Andrew Hood, managing director of communications at American Bible Society. "We continually seek opportunities to support local churches across America by

equipping leaders to help people encounter the life-changing message of the Bible. We commend local pastors who encourage congregants to read the Bible regularly.”

Most Bible-Minded Cities*

1. Chattanooga, Tennessee (2)
2. Birmingham/Anniston/Tuscaloosa, Alabama (1)
3. Roanoke/Lynchburg, Virginia (4)
4. Shreveport, Louisiana (5)
5. Tri-Cities, Tennessee (3)
6. Charlotte, North Carolina (8)
7. Little Rock/Pine Bluff, Arkansas (10)
8. Knoxville, Tennessee (11)
9. Greenville/Spartanburg/Anderson, South Carolina / Asheville, North Carolina (9)
10. Lexington, Kentucky (15)

*parentheses indicate previous year's ranking