**“The Value of Bible Study”**

2 Timothy 2:15

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

The Bible is God's great text-book for man. It is His lamp to our feet and light to our path in this world of sin. The value of Bible study cannot therefore be overestimated.

Considered from a literary standpoint alone, the Bible stands preeminent. Its terse, chaste style; its beautiful and impressive imagery; its interesting stories and well-told narratives; its deep wisdom and its sound logic; its dignified language and elevated themes, all make it worthy of universal reading and careful study.

As an educating power, the Bible has no equal. Nothing so broadens the vision, strengthens the mind, elevates the thoughts, and ennobles the affections as does the study of the written Word of God. A knowledge of its principles is an essential preparation to every calling. To the extent that it is studied and its teachings are received, it gives strength of character, noble ambition, keenness of perception, and sound judgment. Of all the books ever written, none contains the lessons so instructive, precepts so pure, or promises so great as the Bible.

 Jeremy W. Goen

***Psalm 119:11***

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

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|  | Searching the Scriptures…  *Acts 17:11 - “examining the scriptures daily...”*    Lesson #3  November 10, 2019 |

***Imagination***

*"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.*” Matt. 13:35

imagination was given to us not only for our entertainment; it was also given for our instruction. It’s a silly person indeed who, disliking fiction, says that he only enjoys books that are “true.” Not only can imaginative works convey truth, they can often do so much more powerfully than an argument or an exposition. It is no accident that the most influential teachers the world has ever known have engaged our imagination with stories.

None of us has grasped any more than a minute fraction of the totality of what is real. If we were good enough with words to describe in detail every single thing we know to be true, the books we might write would still contain only an infinitesimal part of what there is to know. Deep down, we know this. We know that there is so much more. In our heart of hearts, we feel the tug of great things that lie just outside the boundaries of our present knowledge. We sense their existence, but we can’t quite capture them with our words.

Imagination, I believe, is the tool that’s been given to us by which we can reach beyond what we know is true and touch things we only have an *inkling* are true. Joseph Roux said it this way: “That which we know is but little; that which we have a presentiment of is immense; it is in this direction that the poet outruns the learned man.”

We need to take better care of our imaginations than we sometimes do. For one thing, we need to be more careful what we feed them. Much that we might imagine is not worth imagining, and we ought to steer clear of all that is sordid or selfish. But beyond that, we need to nurture our imaginations. If we allow them the exercise they need, they’ll grow and become strong. In time, they’ll take their place among our best friends. And, as we’ve said, they’ll not only entertain us; they’ll teach us. As folks who’re both thoughtful and imaginative, we’ll learn a lot more than we could with either tool alone.

*Enthusiastic Ideas – Gary Henry – Jan. 22*

***“God So Loved The World”***

John 3:1-17(NKJV)

“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? 11 "Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. 12 "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. 14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

**God So Loved The World**

John 3:1-17

1. **“For God”: The Greatest Being**
   1. Eph. 3:20
2. **“So Loved”: The Greatest Trait**
   1. 1 Cor. 13:13
   2. Eph. 3:7-19
3. **“The World”: The Greatest Company**
4. **“That He Gave”: The Greatest Act**
5. **“His Only Begotten Son”: The Greatest Gift**
   1. 2 Cor. 9:15
6. **“That Whoever”: The Greatest Opportunity**
   1. Mark 16:15
   2. Rev. 22:17
7. **“Believes”: The Greatest Foundation**
   1. Heb. 11:6
   2. John 3:16
   3. James 2:20; Gal. 5:6; Luke 13:3;
   4. Matt. 10:32; Act 2:38
8. **“In Him”: The Greatest Attraction**
   1. John 12:32
9. **“Shall Not Perish”: The Greatest Tragedy**
   1. 2 Thess. 1:9
   2. Matt. 25:46
   3. Rev. 20:10
10. **“But”: The Greatest Difference**
11. **“Have Eternal Life”: The Greatest Promise**
    1. Mark 10:30; Gal.6:8
    2. 1 Tim. 6:12; Titus 1:2
    3. Rev. 21:4