**“The Bible, A Guide For Life”**

Matthew 6:33-34

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”*

As a guide, the Bible is without a rival. It gives a calm peace in believing, and a firm hope of the future. It solves the great problem of life and destiny, and inspires to a life of purity, patience, and well-doing. It fills the heart with love for God and a desire to do good to others, and thus prepares for usefulness here and for a home in heaven. It teaches the value of the soul, by revealing the price that has been paid to redeem it. It makes known the only antidote for sin, and presents the only perfect code of morals ever given. It tells of the future and the preparation necessary to meet it. It makes us bold for the right, and sustains the soul in adversity and affliction. It lights up the dark valley of death, and points to a life unending. It leads to God, and to Christ, whom to know is life eternal. In short, it is the one book to live by and die by.

As the king of Israel was instructed to write him a copy of the law, and to read therein "all the days of his life," that he might "fear the Lord," keep His word, and thus prolong his days and the days of his children (Deut. 17:18-20), so ought men now to study the Bible, and from it learn that fear which is the beginning of wisdom, and that knowledge which is unto salvation.

***Psalm 1:1-2***

“Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.”

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|  | Searching the Scriptures…  *Acts 17:11 - “examining the scriptures daily...”*    Lesson #2  November 9, 2019 |

***Discipline***

*"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*” 1 Cor. 9:27

Life presents us with no greater challenge than when it asks us to discipline ourselves. There aren’t many good things that can be accomplished without self-mastery, but for all its importance, this kind of discipline is also very *difficult*. To learn to discipline ourselves effectively, we must usually pass through a painful apprenticeship. Most of us will fail frequently before we master the ability to channel our abilities in consistently good directions.

Too often, we spend our training energies learning nothing more than *how* to do what we *want* to do. Having learned that, we then insist on the right to do what we want. But Aristotle pointed out, “What it lies in our power to do, it lies in our power not to do.” The highest form of discipline is the ability to refrain from doing what we *might* do in order to achieve goals consistent with what we *ought* to do. Just because a thing can be done, that doesn’t mean it should be done. Discipline knows the difference. It’s able to subordinate impulse to principle. It knows what to put in…*and also what to leave out!*

Things like self-esteem and self-respect are high priorities with most people. In view of that, it’s ironic that self-discipline is not valued any more than it is. Folks who’ve been down the road far enough in life to know what works and what doesn’t all report that it’s impossible to like ourselves if we don’t discipline ourselves. Abraham Joshua Heschel, for example, said, “Self-respect is the fruit of discipline; the sense of dignity grows with the ability to say no to oneself.”

So the ability to govern ourselves is critical. But as we said at the beginning, it’s very difficult. It’s not a skill learned overnight, but one that comes from growth and training. We need to get in the game and start learning discipline, but we also need to be patient with ourselves.

The main thing is to decide *who we are* and *what we want*. This sounds simple, but there aren’t many people in the world who’ve really done it. We can have *anything* we want, but not *everything* we want. Some choices have to be made; some things have to be given up. Let’s not let our lives be marred by things we’re too weak to let go of.

*Enthusiastic Ideas – Gary Henry – Jan. 15*

***“Seeking the Savior”***

Matthew 2:1-13(NKJV)

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 6 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."”

**Seeking The Savior**

Matt. 2:1-13

1. **They Sought Jesus (Matt. 2:1-9, 11, 13**
   1. The Magi
   2. The Mission
   3. The Method
2. **They Found Jesus (Matt. 2:7-11)**
3. **They Worshiped Jesus (Matt. 2:2, 11)**