

GOD'S WORD IS THE TRUTH

Jesus once told some Jews who believed on Him, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). If you know the word of the Lord, you know the truth, for the word of the Lord is the truth. In praying for His apostles, Jesus prayed, "Sanctify they through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Paul told the Thessalonians, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (I Thess. 2:13). Obviously, since the word of God is the truth and it is the truth that one must have to be set free from the bondage of sin, one ought to have a great desire to know that truth. In fact, Paul spoke of some that would perish, "...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (II Thess. 2:10).

Though there are multitudes among us that could care less what God has to say, there are still enough to fill every football stadium, every race stand, every coliseum and every meeting house in America if they learned that the Lord was to appear at a certain time and speak to them in person. The Lord has spoken! One does not have to wait in line to enter a grand auditorium of some kind in order to hear God speak. Paul wrote, "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things from God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (I Cor. 2:10-12). Later he told the Corinthians, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (I Cor. 14:37). God has spoken to us through His inspired prophets and apostles having revealed His will to physical Israel (through the prophets) and to Christians (through the apostles). Therefore, "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17). Learn it and live it!

Robert

MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

NOTE: The following "Message of the Bible" is found at the end of the first lesson of the old "Visualized Bible Study Series" workbook by Jule L. Miller. The original author is unknown. Many consider this to be a masterpiece of accolades bestowed upon the Book of book, the Bible. (RCO)

This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe in it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should bill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

APPLICATION OF THE PREVIOUS INFORMATION

Knowing that the Bible is the word of God and that specifically, the New Testament is the guide for man during this Christian age, and knowing that will provide all the benefits mentioned above and ignorance or rejection of its message will result in eternal damnation, how could any who have already embraced the Christian religion fail to be avid students of this wonderful book? Members of the Lord's church used to be known as "Bible quoten and Bible toten people", but not any more. More and more are like those the Hebrew writer wrote of, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat" (Heb. 5:12). Spend time in God's word. You will not be sorry! **RCO**