

The Practicality of Redemption (8)

The Bible (2)

Introduction

- A. One of the most practical benefits provided by God -- is the Bible. It is overwhelming to know that we have an authoritative interpretation of life, a blueprint or roadmap by which we can -- with security -- plan our daily life as well as our life-long goals.
- B. So we may understand the importance and value of His Word, God has given many illustrations of how He works in our life through the Scripture. These are designed to teach us and to lead us to more deeply appreciate the Bible.

I. The Bible is Likened to Seed -- to Give Life.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. I Peter 1:23

Comment: Where and how does God start to work in an individual's life? He begins within -- and through His Word. As we plant seed to produce a crop, so the Holy Spirit plants the message of the Bible and then nurtures that message into a product conforming to the will of God. This is how the sinner is brought to salvation or the believer to spiritual maturity.

II. The Bible is Likened to Food -- to Strengthen.

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. Hebrews 5:12

Comment: What food is to our bodies so the Word of God is to our spirits. God has made this provision for us so we may become strong in our walk with Him. Much of our spiritual weakness is due to a lack of study and failure to apply the Bible to our daily life.

III. The Bible is Likened to Water -- to Cleanse.

... Christ loved the church and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing to water by the word. Ephesians 5:25,26

Comment: It is God's will that the believer be free from sin and the defilement that accompanies sin. When we practice the truths of the Bible by faith -- we receive an inner spiritual cleansing. When a Christian neglects the Bible in his daily life, or is in a church where the Word is not taught -- the result can only be confusion, doubt, bondage, and the lack of spiritual growth.

IV. The Bible is Likened to a Lamp -- to Enlighten.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalms 119:105

Comment: When we occasionally stumble along in the dark the importance of light becomes very evident. It is even more important in the spiritual realm. Because of the Fall and our own sinfulness we are largely ignorant of God and spiritual truths -- and have a tendency to suppress even the truth that we "know." God has given us His Word that will illuminate our darkness -- if we will use it.

V. The Bible is Likened to a Shield -- to Protect.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth Ephesians 6:14

Comment: The Christian has an enemy -- the Devil and all his fallen angels. The only protection God has provided is the truth. When we practice the Word of God it becomes a protective shield in our spiritual battle. The believer who lives as a double-minded person is in constant spiritual trouble -- with repercussions of that trouble in all the other areas of his life.

VI. The Bible is Likened to a Sword -- for Attack.

And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17

Comment: God has given us a weapon for both defense and attack. When we use the Bible as a sword -- the Holy Spirit can get involved in our life. We must use the Scripture to correct, to repel, to refuse, to renounce, and to reprove.

VII. The Bible is Likened to a Fire -- to Purify.

Is not my word like a fire? saith the Lord Jeremiah 23:29

Comment: In the days of the Old Testament one of the more sure ways of purifying a cooking vessel was to turn it over on the fire. God likens His Word to a fire in that He often will use it to chasten, purge, refine, and correct us. This process is often painful -- not because of the Bible -- but because of the nature of our sin.

VIII. The Bible is Likened to a Rock -- to Support.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him to a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. Matthew 7:24

Comment: When we follow the blueprint of the Bible -- for the glory of God, by faith and love -- we introduce great security into our life. The difference in the illustration is clear -- building on the sand or building on the rock. What fools we are for demanding our own way and following our own faulty and erroneous desires!

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