

The Bible – And The Successful Christian life

Introduction

- A. Success, in the Christian life, is always related to a correct understanding and practice of the Holy Scripture.
- B. One of the main characteristics of what it means to be a sinner is to believe that we can, independently of God, define right and wrong and direct the course of our own life. This sinful autonomy must be completely abandoned.
- C. One of the greatest wonders of all time is that God has revealed Himself to us. And, beyond all expectation, God has caused this to be written into book form!

I. God's Description of the Bible.

- A. The Word, of God is Inspired, II Timothy 3:16.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Observation: Inspiration means that the Bible has been supernaturally produced and is therefore infallible. Our greatest profit comes through the Word

- B. The Word of God is final Authority, I Thessalonians 2:13.

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.

Observation: This explains how we must respond to the Bible – not as a human word, but as the Word (authority) of God.

- C. The Word of God is Truth, John 17:17.

Sanctify them thorough Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.

Observation: What could ever be more important than truth? One of life's most important tasks is to discern the difference between truth and error. To know and practice the truth is of paramount importance.

- D. The Word of God is Trustworthy, Romans 4:21.

And being fully persuaded that, what He (God) had promised, He (God) was able to perform.

Observation: God stands behind His Word. His promises are not given to us to mock us. The strength of the promise is the power of God and the faithfulness of God Himself.

E. The Word of God is a Powerful Critic, Hebrew 4:12.

For the Word of God is quick (living) and powerful and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner (critic) of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Observation: God uses His Word as a mirror in our lives. We often see ourselves as guilty or pardoned, free or enslaved, progressing or stagnant as the case may be. Note how the verse indicates that the motive of the heart – is the important facet with God.

II. God's Promises Regarding the Bible.

A. The Word of God is Life-Bringing, Philippians 2:16.

Holding forth the Word of life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain neither laboured in vain.

Observation: When believed and Obeyed – the Word indicates how to respond to God in faith (John 1:12) so that we may become the possessors of eternal life (John 3:36).

B. The Word of God is Sanctifying, John 17:17.

Sanctify them through Thy Truth; Thy Word is Truth.

Observation: This is God's method of bringing His people to a more cleansed and holy way of life. When we choose to obey the Scripture – the grace of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit flows into our lives.

C. The Word of God is a Defensive Armor and Weapon, Ephesians 6:14,17.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth . . . and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Observation: As armor and a weapon is only effective when used – so the Word of God must be put into daily practice. We must choose to obey and to use the Word of God in aggressive attack on the enemy.

III. God's Exhortations Regarding the Bible.

A. The Word of God must be Read, I Peter 2:2.

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.

B. The Word of God must be mixed with Faith, Hebrews 4:1,2.

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them; but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

C. The Word of God must be obeyed in Love, I John 5:3.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous.

Conclusion: Where is the Word of God in our daily priority?

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