

John # 88 “You Study The Scriptures Diligently”

John 5:39-47; Mark 7:1-23; Luke 7:36-50; Luke 18:9-14

The Bible is the most precious, most important record this world has ever known or will ever know and to understand our Bible, it is necessary that we consider what makes this Book what it claims to be; the very mind of Christ in written form, the Words of Almighty God Himself but is studying the Scriptures even diligently enough to gain salvation?

All who were convinced of the power of the Scripture tried to impress those in their generation of the importance of the Word of God.

The Pharisees knew the Word and studied it tirelessly and claimed its Author as their God but they missed its meaning by a mile, allowing for their pride to rule in their lives causing them to have major issues with the God of the Bible.

In the disciples’ prayer, commonly known as the Lord’s prayer, Jesus prayed that His Father’s will might be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

And just how precious was the will of God to the Lord Jesus? So precious that He walked to a cross He didn’t deserve, willingly and joyously after saying, ‘My dear Father, Your will be done in My life and My death for I ever live to please You!’

In His humanity, Jesus constantly subordinated His own will to that of God the Father.

To do God’s will meant for our Great High Priest to be obedient to death, even the death of the cross; it meant the shame of being spat upon and a heavy heart which led to a deafening cry of forsakenness and through it all, He remained sustained by His commitment to do the will of His Father.

The Pharisees supposedly knew the Hebrew Scriptures backwards and forwards and yet, they couldn’t recognize their Messiah because they wouldn’t accept the Author of the very Scriptures they knew so well.

King Solomon had everything life could offer; he was famous, brilliant, well respected and wealthy beyond anyone’s wildest imagination; so of all people, Solomon should have reached the pinnacle of happiness and contentment.

But Solomon was miserable and why? Because he thought that he could find true happiness outside the plan of God apart from the Word of God.

Solomon teaches all who have ears to hear that the only answer for us in life is to learn, understand, believe and apply biblical truth; it’s not money, fame, power, success or anything else we consider so important and can’t manage living without, it’s the WORD of GOD!

God gave us His Word that we could learn to know and love Him which automatically

causes us to function according to His fore-ordained plan.

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the Words of this Law.

Religion knows well the superficial ritual study of the Scripture without knowing its Living Author.

FOR THE RELIGIOUS, THE SCRIPTURE HAS A TWO-FOLD MINISTRY:

1. To remove false issues from their thinking and
2. To replace them with the truth.

They must unlearn the lie that human good produced in carnality pleases God and learn that only divine good produced in spirituality is acceptable before God.

Instead of investigating the Scripture and letting it speak to them, the religious speak to the Scripture.

Honest investigation requires an open mind with no preconceived notions.

Religion is designed to take, seize or at the very least, receive glory from other people.

The religious crowd overlooked and under-valued the Lord Jesus Christ but WHY?

Because they admired and over-valued themselves!

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S CHARGES FOR HIS ACCUSERS: PRIDE, VAIN GLORY AND UNBELIEF.

So, our confidence in witnessing for Jesus Christ is not in our ability to argue or in our eloquence in presenting the evidence; our confidence is in God Himself and therefore in His Word which along with God the Holy Spirit makes these things clear to people because the Word of God has self-validating authority.

When we share the Gospel, it's our job to simply provide clear information and then get out of the way and let the Holy Spirit do His job.

And then they have to make a decision for themselves to accept or to reject the truth; the Holy Spirit will make it clear to them and they will have to accept it or reject it.