

Howards Corner

Knowing scriptures

Chapter 4

Review and summary

I have written quite a bit and will take a minute to review and to summarize what we have been talking about. The main emphasis has been on being sure the denominations and churches we are in are following what the bible teaches. There are some that have gotten off track and gone into error which has caused many to be ignorant of what the bible teaches because the whole bible is not taught. The main point is that we should not let anyone sway us from what the bible teaches. Our eternal life is at stake. This is a personal relationship with Jesus and the heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit. We should not be trusting churches or denominations for our salvation but trust only in the work of Jesus on the cross for our salvation.

Be aware that we do have an enemy and that is Satan who has always been a deceiver and deceives still. He usually makes things look like the real thing but are fake. Satan is about his work trying to destroy the church like he has tried to destroy Jesus because he knows if he does not, he is defeated. Usually, his attacks are subtle and not easily noticeable. He just contaminates the church with half-truths but not the whole truth. He likes to lull us to sleep with trust in churches and denominations for salvation but that is not the message of Christ. We go to sleep because we are so comfortable thinking the church organization has saved us, so we think we do not have to keep on learning and growing. We should be awake and alert every day because death or Christs coming for the church could happen at any time. We are commanded to be always ready.

So, deceptions lead to deception and to future generations and soon none in the church know the truth any longer so there are none left in the churches to sound the alarm. We have been caught in the trap of churchism with rituals, traditions, and empty dead religion. Satan has won the battle and then at some time he will

use his direct attack and persecution will break out against Christians, and many will not be able to stand because our faith has not been in Christ but in church organizations. We cannot fight these battles without the Holy Spirit's abiding in us and that only comes to those who have believed in the shed blood of Jesus alone for salvation and not in keeping the law or in a membership in an organization church for you are saved by grace and not by these other things.

We must be diligent to know the word and be filled with the spirit because we are in the end times and the church is in danger of sliding into the apostate church. The love of many will turn cold and many will leave the faith.

I used a lot of time to cover these basic facts about churches and denominations for a reason I wanted get you out of the mindset of looking at what the churches teach and on to what the bible teaches. Your church may be teaching it correctly or they may not, but I am advising you to take a blank slate into learning the scriptures because you will find a lot of surprises and you need an open mind to listen to what God has said from a fresh perspective. If you go in by trying to make it fit what your church says, then you may not be open to the many blessings God has in store for you and His powerful truths. Read the bible and let the bible interpret what the bible teaches with the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Relax and ask God to show you the truth. This is the same bible your church is preaching and studying, I hope. Be sure to go to the books your church has not taught. Many do not teach all the bible and you may find truths that will help you see the total picture. In some of these you will need a good teacher to help you understand. It will not come overnight but with patience and perseverance it will begin to come together. This is true, especially in the prophetic books. You may be surprised at how many of the familiar scriptures have been misinterpreted because they have not been read in context and by not using other scripture to clarify it when there is a question.

I have gone through this process myself. I have studied the bible for many years and taught Sunday school for a few years and though I had a good understanding, and I did have a good basic knowledge but when I went through about 400+ hours of studying from the versebyverseministry.org site things opened for me. The scriptures began to make sense and I started to understand how they all fit together. Learning how to interpret scripture by context and letting the bible

interpret the more difficult scriptures has made a tremendous difference. I recommend versebyverseministry.org it is a detailed teaching, and it is free and available right on your desktop or phone.

I told you that I do not teach from books and movies much and that is true, but I see another movie that fits what I have been trying to do with asking you to question what your denomination and church believe and are teaching or not teaching.

I have seen the movie "Hoosier" which is a story about a high school basketball team and their new coach Norman Dale who was a one-time college coach. He had lost his coaching job and been forbidden to coach college basketball forever because he had lost his temper and hit one of his players. He is now faced with teaching a small high school basketball team but is finding difficulty because the locals and many others were not listening to his message. He started by teaching basic techniques and not just trying to win games. No one understood what he was doing but he was insistent on building the basics above winning games. Then he took on an assistant (Shooter) who saw what he was doing. Shooter then declared Coach Dale was "breaking down the colts". Interpretation of this is breaking down their trust in their old ways of playing and he was building up a new foundation that would lead to victory. They went on to win the State Championship.

Therefore, my intent is to break down your dependence on any other source for your walk to victory in Jesus but what the bible teaches, and the Holy Spirit shows you about your salvation and you daily walk with Him. Which will lead you to believe in the shed blood of Jesus on the cross for your redemption and your assurance of God's plan for your eternal salvation. Your denomination and your church and your pastor and your family and friends "may or may not" be guiding you correctly. I am asking you to set aside preconceived concepts and read the bible with a good plan to understand all the word without bias. Seek sincerely and you will find but if you do not have an open mind and are not teachable you will not find the truth.

Now I have laid a foundation of trusting in the word and the Holy Spirit for your guidance and to have a teachable heart and seek so you will find. So, I started with getting you on first base in my analogy of baseball to lead you to the first base of

being born again and then through maturity and consuming the word by the Holy Spirit's help.

My analogy with baseball says that first base is when you surrender yourself to Christ alone for your salvation and no other thing, not even the organizational churches. That then enables you to receive the Holy Spirit in your heart. Then and only then will you be teachable because then and only then will you have a new heart that replaces the sin nature heart you were born with. It is the same for all men for we were born dead in spirit and cannot see the kingdom of God until we get these new eyes. Jesus said at one time "Let the dead bury the dead" which is saying we were born dead and must receive the Holy Spirit to become alive. Jesus has hidden the truth in small nuggets which you must dig out by seeking the truth. You will not see these truths until you get that new spirit in your heart. Jesus said "You must be born again" in John 3:3. If you have been born again then you are on first base and begin to understand and mature in the Christian walk.

It is my sincere prayer that you will allow the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and lead you to all righteousness.

In upcoming chapters I will start to move to scriptures that will show you some of the examples of types and shadow and numbers and prophecies and names and ages and how to see the big picture.

Howard