

Howards Corner

Knowing the scriptures

Introduction

Knowing the mechanics of the bible are a lot different from understanding what it all means. I may know all the Old Testament stories. I may know that Noah was the one that built the ark. I may know that Daniel went to the lion's den and was kept safe by God's hand. I may tell you that the bible has 66 books. I may know that Moses brought Israel out of slavery from Egypt and delivered to them the law. But do I know what it says and what it all means?

I may have read the New Testament and I may have read about Jesus and His life and death on the cross. I may have read about His resurrection and the calling of His disciples and may know their names. I may have read Acts chapter 2 about the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church. I may have read about the works of Paul and Peter and the early church and that many were persecuted but do I know what it really means?

It is one thing to read the story but to understand is quite different. The bible is a spiritual book and is interpreted by the Holy spirit. To learn what the bible says and what it means takes a learning process that is layer upon layer. You will not learn the meanings in one reading. God has hidden Himself in His word and only those that diligently seek Him will find Him. He wants to know if you are serious and willing to pay the price to study with fervor. Are we humble enough to ask Him for help to understand?

The bible is written in veiled language and is often necessary to continue reading until you start to piece together the meaning. For you cannot understand Revelation without understanding Daniel and Isaiah and Jeremiah and Ezekiel and Zechariah and others. You see it is one whole story and different parts are in scattered places. The first thing to understand is that the story is about Israel in the beginning and is Israel at the end. The church age is then the middle and is a subject which you may describe as is a bracket sandwiched between the start of Israel and the end of Israel. The church age then is a different story with its own

teaching both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. I would describe it like solving a jigsaw puzzle. First you need to understand the big picture. I look at the total picture before I try to fit the pieces together. I will cover all this in detail later.

It is critical to first understand that all are sinners separated from God by our sin nature which is in all of us. He has given us a way to solve this separation and that was by the shed blood of Jesus on the cross. By that shed blood and our belief that Jesus is our reconciliation to fellowship with God and then and only then can we talk to God because the veil of temple has been torn from top to bottom. Once we are born again by the giving of the Holy Spirit, we will start to then understand the real meanings of the scriptures. The Holy Spirit is now available to help us to understand. It however is still a process for many are babies in Christ and must start on simple food before we can understand the deeper things.

To understand that we are lost in ourselves and need a power in us to show us the way is the first step of our learning journey. We cannot possibly understand a spiritual language without the Holy Spirit teaching us. Remember Jesus talked to the woman at the well and told her about the "living water ", which, if you receive you will never thirst again. This then is that same living water that quenches our thirst for the word of God and teaches us the language of the Spirit. So, we need a new spirit to replace our corrupted spirit which we were born with.

If you are a baseball fan, then you know that you must get to first base before you can get to second base. So, receiving the Holy Spirit is first base and as we mature in our understanding, you may progress to second base and third base and get to go to home to receive your promised eternal life. I fear however that we have those in the church that have skipped first base and are trying to go home without the power to reach home. Without the power of the Holy Spirit in us we do not know how to get home.

I have cheated a little because I have you on first base in the introduction, so I am trying to get you to see a goal first and then work through your learning and growing process.

Therefore, to some who are still at home plate and have not gotten to first base yet, I will try to offer help to get you to first base. To those that are on first base and you want to get to second base maybe I will have some things the Lord gives to me to say to you that will open the scriptures to you to show you a better

understanding. Finally, I want to reach those that have not yet gone to bat but have been sitting on the bench and have never gotten into the game. Which by the way is not a game but is serious business of life and death. This life and death are not just our short stay on this earth but is life and death and rewards for eternity.

This then is a brief start to get you not only to first base but to get you all the way to your eternal home. Unless you are willing to pay the price and diligently search the word for yourself you will not get your reward. Little work gets you little reward.

I will continue this subject of understanding the word in future writings on this subject.

Howard