

Using the Road Map

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore, many of them believed...”
(Acts 17:11-12).

There is an old saying that says, “When everything else fails, read the directions.”

The Word of God is a guide, a road map on the road of life. It has been given to us to provide us with directions of how we should move on the journey of life.

The writer of Hebrews notes,

“These all died in the faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.” (Hebrews 11:13-14)

We are pilgrims, travelers, sojourners on the road of life. The Word of God has been provided to give us the necessary directions of how to journey in life, and get from earth to heaven.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalm 119:105

The Word of God contains the spiritual understanding and guidelines that will help us avoid wrong turns in life.

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7: 13-14)

This allows us to know that we shouldn't expect the majority of people to follow Jesus on the road that leads to eternal life. Few will enter into the gate of true repentance, baptism in Jesus name, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

The Hidden Treasure

The Word of God is like a hidden treasure. We must find, treasure it, and obey it in all of life's situations.

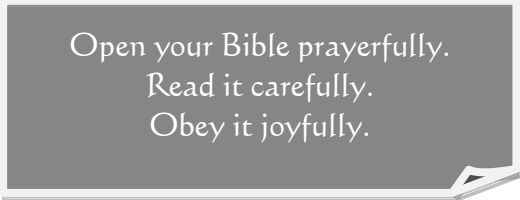
In one part of Africa where there are plenty of diamonds, a traveler met two boys playing. They were playing a game of marbles. As the man looked closely at the objects used in the game he saw that they were playing with diamonds. They were playing with treasures. We

need to be careful we don't treat the Word of God like that. We don't need to play with the Word of God. We need to obey it.

In *God's Word For My Life (Search For Truth Publication)* a story is related of an ancient Greek legend about a dying farmer. As he lay dying, he told his two sons, "My treasure is buried in my field. If you will be rich then you must dig for it."

After the old man died the two boys began searching for the treasure. Using spades and shovels they began digging everywhere but had no apparent success. They carefully turned over every inch of the soil, digging deeply into the ground. Yet, they could not find the treasure. When the planting season arrived they left the search and planted the crops.

When the harvest season came they had a great harvest. Never had they had such a great harvest before. They had never experienced such a rich crop before. In digging the soil so eagerly in search of the treasure, the boys had won the riches they sought. Their wise father's plan had worked!



Open your Bible prayerfully.
Read it carefully.
Obey it joyfully.

Look For It!

We have also received a treasure that has come to us from many generations. It is also buried, but not in the ground. It is buried in the Bible. If you want the treasure, then you must dig for it.

"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39)

In Matthew 13:44-45 we see that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure in the field. When a man finds it, he hides it, and will sell all that he has to buy the field. It is also like a merchant man seeking costly pearls. When he has found one pearl of great price, he will sell all that he has to buy it.

However, many Christians fail to read their Bibles on a regular, daily basis. Therefore, we can easily be led down a wrong path.

"...Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God." (Matthew 22:29)

The Bible is the most circulated book of all times. Almost everyone is willing to admit that it is the best book of all times. It has lasted longer than any other book. It is printed in more languages than any other book in history and it has done more good than any other book. Yet, it is one of the least read books today.

For many, Bibles are only opened on Sunday morning or special occasions. The rest of the week it gathers dust on the table of our room. No wonder the Bereans were considered to be noble, for they searched the Scriptures daily.

The Treasure Examined

The writers of the Bible were kings, prophets, missionaries, shepherds; both educated and uneducated. It is a collection of 66 books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament) but they make up one book. The Bible is one book, that reveals one God, and His one plan for mankind.

A Look At The Road Map

1. The Bible has two main divisions. These are the Old Testament and the New Testament.
2. "Testament" refers to the will of a departed person. It is a covenant.
3. The Old Testament is the agreement between God and man concerning salvation before the time of Jesus Christ. Then the New Testament is the agreement between God and man for salvation after Jesus came.
4. Each Testament has five parts.

A. In The Old Testament there are five books of Law. (These are the first five books of the Bible). The next twelve books are History (of the Jewish people). The next five books are books of Poetry. Then there are five books called Major Prophets and finally twelve books called Minor Prophets. The difference in the minor and major prophets is that the major prophets are longer.

B. In the New Testament we have the four Gospels. These are books about the life of Jesus Christ.

C. There is one History book called Acts. This book shows us the birth and growth of the early church. It tells us the plan of salvation.

D. Next are fourteen Epistles written by Paul to the churches he started. These books show us how to live the life of a Christian.

E. Then there are seven books called General Epistles.

F. Finally there is a book of Prophecy called Revelation.

Preparing for a long trip, the young Christian said to his friend, "I am just about packed. I only have to put in a guidebook (map), a lamp, a mirror...a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies (life stories), a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sword, a hammer, and one set of books I've been studying."

“But”, the friend objected, “you can’t get all that into your bag.”

“Oh, yes,” replied the young man, “it doesn’t take much room.” He placed his Bible in the corner of the suitcase and closed the lid. (Taken from: Quotable Quotations: Compiled by Lloyd Cory)

Study Questions

1. In which way is the Word of God like a road map? _____

2. What happens when we fail to read our Bible? _____

3. What made the Bereans noble? _____

4. How many books are in the Bible? _____
5. How many books are in the Old Testament? _____
6. How many books are in the New Testament? _____
7. What are the two main divisions in the Bible and what are they called? _____

8. What does the word “Testament” refer to? _____

9. How many parts does each Testament in the Bible have? _____
10. What are the parts of the Old Testament? _____

11. What are the parts of the New Testament? _____

12. Which book records the birth of the church? _____

13. What is the difference between the Minor and Major Prophets? _____

14. Relate how the Bible is like the treasure described by the old man for his two sons.

15. Complete this old saying: "When everything else fails..." _____

Additional Notes
