

# The Value of Bible Study

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*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of Yahuwah, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of Yahuwah may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The word of Yahuwah is like a treasure-house, containing everything that is essential to perfect the man of Yahuwah. We do not appreciate the Bible as we should. We do not have a proper estimate of the richness of its stores, nor do we realize the great necessity of searching the Scriptures for ourselves. Men neglect the study of the word of Yahuwah in order to pursue some worldly interest, or to engage in the pleasures of the time. Some trivial affair is made an excuse for ignorance of the Scriptures given by inspiration of Yahuwah. But anything of an earthly character might better be put off, than this all-important study, that is to make us wise unto eternal life.

My heart aches as I see men,--even those who profess to be looking for Yahushua's coming,--devoting their time and talents to circulating books that contain nothing concerning the special truths for our time,--books of narrative, books of biography, books of men's theories and speculations. The world is full of such books; they can be had anywhere; but can the followers of Yahushua engage in so common a work when there is crying need for Yahuwah's truth on every hand? It is not our mission to circulate such works. There are thousands of others to do this, who have as yet no knowledge of anything better. We have a definite mission, and we ought not to turn from it to side issues, employing men and means to bring to the attention of the people books that have no bearing upon the present truth.

Do you pray for the advancement of the truth? Then work for it, and show that your prayers rise from sincere and earnest hearts. Yahuwah does not work miracles where he has provided means by which the work may be accomplished. Use your time and talents in his service, and he will not fail to work with your efforts. If the farmer fails to plow and sow, Yahuwah does not work a miracle to undo the results of his neglect. Harvest-time finds his fields barren--there are no sheaves to be reaped, no grain to be garnered. Yahuwah provided the seed and the soil, the sun and the rain; and if the agriculturist had employed the means that were at his hand, he would have received according to his sowing and his labor.

There are great laws that govern the world of nature, and spiritual things are controlled by principles equally certain; the means for an end must be employed, if the desired results are to be attained. Those who make no decided efforts themselves, are not working in harmony with the laws of Yahuwah. They are not using the provisions of the Heavenly Father, and they can expect nothing but meager returns. The Holy Spirit will not compel men to take a certain course of action. We are free moral agents; and when sufficient evidence has been given us as to our duty it is left with us to decide our course.

You who are waiting in idle expectation that Yahuwah will perform some wonderful miracle to enlighten the world in regard to the truth, I want to ask you if you have employed the means that Yahuwah has provided for the advancement of his cause? You who pray for light and truth from Heaven, have you studied the Scriptures? Have you desired *"the sincere milk of the word,"* (1 Peter 2:2) that you may grow thereby? Have you submitted yourselves to the revealed command? *"Thou shalt,"* and *"thou shalt not,"* are definite requirements, and there is no place for idleness in the life of a follower of Yahushua. You who mourn your spiritual dearth, do you seek to know and to do the will of Yahuwah? Are you striving to enter in at the strait gate? There is work, earnest work, to be done for the Master. The evils condemned

in Yahuwah's word, must be overcome. You must individually battle against the world, the flesh, and the Devil. The word of Yahuwah is called *"the sword of the Spirit,"* (Ephesians 6:17) and you should become skillful in its use, if you would cut your way through the hosts of opposition and darkness.

Wrench yourself away from hurtful associations. Count the cost of following Yahushua, and make it, with a determined purpose to cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. Eternal life is worth your all, and Yahushua has said, *"Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."* (Luke 14:33). He who does nothing but wait to be compelled by some super-natural agency, will wait on in lethargy and darkness. Yahuwah has given his word. Yahuwah speaks in unmistakable language to your soul. Is not the word of his mouth sufficient to show you your duty, and to urge its fulfillment?

Those who humbly and prayerfully search the Scriptures, to know and to do Yahuwah's will, will not be in doubt of their obligations to Yahuwah. For *"if any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine."* (John 7:17). If you would know the mystery of piety, you must follow the plain word of truth,--feeling or no feeling, emotion or no emotion. Obedience must be rendered from a sense of principle, and the right must be pursued under all circumstances. This is the character that is elected of Yahuwah unto salvation. The test of a genuine follower of Yahushua is given in the word of Yahuwah. Says Yahushua, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* (John 14:15). *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest myself to him. . . . If a man love me he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me."* (John 14:21, 23-24).

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Here are the conditions upon which every soul will be elected to eternal life. Your obedience to Yahuwah's commandments will prove your right to an inheritance with the saints in light. Yahuwah has elected a certain excellence of character; and everyone who, through the grace of Yahushua, shall reach the standard of his requirement, will have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of glory. All who would reach this standard of character, will have to employ the means that Yahuwah has provided to this end. If you would inherit the rest that remaineth for the children of Yahuwah, you must become a co-laborer with Yahuwah. You are elected to wear the yoke of Yahushua,--to bear his burden, to lift his cross. You are to be diligent *"to make your calling and election sure."* (2 Peter 1:10). Search the Scriptures, and you will see that not a son or a daughter of Adam is elected to be saved in disobedience to Yahuwah's law. The world makes void the law of Yahuwah; but followers of Yahushua are chosen to sanctification through obedience to the truth. They are elected to bear the cross, if they would wear the crown.

The Bible is the only rule of faith and doctrine. And there is nothing more calculated to energize the mind, and strengthen the intellect, than the study of the word of Yahuwah. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If Yahuwah's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose, that is rarely seen in these times. Thousands of men who minister in the pulpit are lacking in essential qualities of mind and character, because they do not apply themselves to the study of the Scriptures. They are content with a superficial knowledge of the truths that are full of rich depths of meaning; and they prefer to go on losing much in every way, rather than to search diligently for the hidden treasure.

The search for truth will reward the seeker at every turn, and each discovery will open up richer fields for his investigation. Men are changed in accordance with what they contemplate. If commonplace thoughts and affairs take up the attention, the man will be commonplace. If he is too negligent to obtain anything but a superficial understanding of Yahuwah's truth, he will not receive the rich blessings that Yahuwah would be pleased to bestow upon him. It is a law of the mind, that it will narrow or expand to the dimensions of the things with which it becomes familiar. The mental powers will surely become contracted, and will lose their ability to grasp the deep meanings of the word of Yahuwah, unless they are put vigorously and persistently to the task of searching for truth. The mind will enlarge, if it is employed in tracing out the relation of the subjects of the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual. Go below the surface; the richest treasures of thought are waiting for the skillful and diligent student.

Those who are teaching the most solemn message ever given to the world, should discipline the mind to comprehend its significance. The theme of redemption will bear the most concentrated study, and its depth will never be fully explored. You need not fear that you will exhaust this wonderful theme. Drink deep of the well of salvation. Go to the fountain for yourself, that you may be filled with refreshment, that Yahushua may be in you a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life. Only Bible truth and Bible religion will stand the test of the judgment. We are not to pervert the word of Yahuwah to suit our convenience and worldly interest, but to honestly inquire, "*What wilt thou have me to do?*" (Acts 9:6). "*Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price.*" (1 Corinthians 6:20). And what a price! Not "*with corruptible things, as silver and gold,*" (1 Peter 1:18) "*but with the precious blood of Yahushua.*" When man was lost, the Son of Yahuwah said, I will redeem him, I will become his surety and substitute. He laid aside his royal robes, clothed his divinity with humanity, stepped down from the royal throne, that he might reach the very depth of human woe and temptation, lift up our fallen natures, and make it possible for us to be overcomers,--the sons of Yahuwah, the heirs of the eternal kingdom. Shall we then allow any consideration of earth to turn us away from the path of truth? Shall we not challenge every doctrine and theory, and put it to the test of Yahuwah's word?

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opinions and customs of men are not to be received as of divine authority. Yahuwah has revealed in his word what is the whole duty of man, and we are not to be swayed from the great standard of righteousness. He sent his only begotten Son to be our example, and bade us to hear and to follow him. We must not be influenced from the truth as it is in Yahushua, because great and professedly good men urge their ideas above the plain statements of the word of Yahuwah.

The work of Yahushua is to draw men from the false and spurious, to the true and genuine. "*He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*" (John 8:12). There is no danger of going into error while we follow in the footsteps of "*the light of the world.*" (Matthew 5:14). We are to work the works of Yahushua. We must engage heart and soul in his service; we must search the word of life, and present it to others. We must educate the people to realize the importance of its teaching, and the danger of deviating from its plain commands.

The Jews were led into error and ruin and to the rejection of the Master of glory, because they knew not the Scriptures, nor the power of Yahuwah. A great work is before us,--to lead men to take Yahuwah's word as the rule of their lives, to make no compromise with tradition and custom, but to walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Master.

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*We have taken out from the original article all pagan names and titles of the Father and Son, and have replaced them with the original given names. Furthermore, we have restored in the Scriptures quoted the original names of the Father and Son, as they were originally written by the inspired writers of the Bible. -WLC Team*