

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

THE SCRIPTURES GIVE ETERNAL LIFE

John 5:39-40 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.”

Many years ago, salesmen sold Bibles door to door. They had simple student editions but their pride and joy were large, often white, leather bound, editions. These were purchased to be placed on the coffee table, the mantel over the fireplace or prominently on the family bookshelves. “A committed Christian family,” the salesman would say, “needed to have such a Bible in their home as a witness to their faith.”

Owning a Bible is as American as apple pie. Life Way Research, Inc., through their polling says that 87% of American homes have at least one Bible. One in five Americans (20%), LifeWay Research found, has read through the Bible at least once. That includes 11 percent who’ve read the entire Bible once, and 9 percent who’ve read it through multiple times. Another 12 percent say they have read nearly all of the Bible, while 15 percent have read at least half.

Jesus told the Jews “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” (John 5:39-40) Reading the Bible does not save anyone. Yet the Holy Spirit uses your reading the Bible to work faith in your heart to believe that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior. Faith in Jesus comes to you through the Word of God (The Words of the Bible.)

God, through the pen of Isaiah says of His word, ““For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11) And Romans 1:16-17 says, “. . .the gospel. . .is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to

the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

Owning a Bible, displaying a Bible, reading a Bible, even many times from cover to cover is not what saves. It is believing the message of the Bible that Jesus Christ is God's Son, come to earth as flesh and blood, who kept God's law perfectly for you, paid the "wages of your sins" (Romans 6:23) through the shedding of His blood and rose on Easter morning from death so that through the faith the Holy Spirit gives you in Him God declares you to be without sin. The Holy Spirit inspired writers to write this message for you to hear and read for your salvation.

Prayer: Bless Your Word, O Lord, that it accomplish in me the purpose for which You gave it, namely, my salvation. Grant this to me for Jesus' sake. Amen

O God of light, Your Word, a lamp unfailing;
Shall pierce the darkness of our earth-bound way
And show Your grace, Your plan for us unveiling;
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

From days of old, through blind and willful ages,
Though we rebelled, You gently sought again
And spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,
Who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.

Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
To sinful hearts Your justice and Your grace;
And questing spirits, longing for Your healing,
See Your compassion in the Savior's face.

To all the world Your summons You are sending,
Through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race.
That myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
Mayh praise and celebrate Your gift of grace.
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