

The Word of The Lord Was Precious

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

1 Samuel 3:1 "And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision."

I read those words, "The word of the Lord was precious in those days," and wonder how precious it is now. To those who are saved and seek to walk with the Lord the word of God is of the utmost importance. Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (**John 6:63**). God gives us the words of life that we may know how to be saved and to walk with God. Until we hear the word of God and learn of our sin and how to be saved we are not aware of our true condition.

We are told in the gospel to search the scriptures, and to learn of Jesus. That is an important part of learning how to live as a Christian. How can anyone do God's will if he does not know what it is, or how to serve God? Any person who has read the bible knows

that from the beginning God told his people how to worship, it was not left up to them to do just anything that they thought would do. In **Genesis 4** Cain found out that just going through the motions of worship was not accepted by God.

I don't know if it has always been the problem, but today there seem to be fewer people who are interested in reading, and studying the scriptures. We try to encourage everyone to read the bible, but many don't seem to want to do it. Bible study on Wednesday nights has stopped in many places, along with Sunday night services, because folks are not willing to spend the time to do it. Those who would come either have to work, or are unable to come because of age, and health reasons. The ones who could come are not interested enough to do so. People want to be saved and to go to heaven, but some don't want to do anything here in this life that would take them away from their pleasures.

If God's Word is precious to a person, then the Word will be studied and kept close to the heart. The person who says, "I don't understand, or I don't know the scriptures," has not spent much time

reading, and listening to the word of God. I know that such a person can tell you all about their favorite sports teams, and about the hobbies and things that interest them. "Where your treasure is ..."

The bible gives us instruction in living for the Lord, history of the world, the church, Israel, beside telling the story of Jesus and his atonement for our sin, and much more. How could anyone ignore the precious promises and blessings that God gives us in his Word? As we face the issues of life we need the help of God and the comfort of the scriptures. When someone has a crisis we pray and seek God by the scriptures. If there is a death, we again look for help in the word of God. **1 Thessalonians 4:18**. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Truly the Word of God is precious. If we love the Lord and want to walk with him then we are interested in every word that he says. How about **John 15:3** where Jesus says, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." By the word! Not just any word, but by God's word. His word is as precious to a person as the Lord is. Love the Lord - love his word.

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IT TOOK A CASE OF LEPROSY AND AN EARTHQUAKE TO STOP THIS KING!

UZZIAH, SON OF AMAZIAH, ASCENDED THE THRONE OF JUDAH AT THE AGE OF SIXTEEN TO REIGN FOR FIFTY-TWO YEARS (809-757 B.C.). DURING THIS RULE, HE SERVED AS A WISE AND PIOUS KING. HE REBUILT JERUSALEM, STRENGTHENED ITS WALLS, ENCOURAGED THE ARTS, WAS VICTORIOUS IN BATTLE WITH HIS NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND, IN FACT, RAISED THE KINGDOM BACK TO THE POWER AND GLORY IT ENJOYED IN KING SOLOMON'S DAY! HOWEVER, WHEN HE MADE HIS ONE AND ONLY MISTAKE, IT WAS AS STUPENDOUS AS WERE HIS MANY TRIUMPHS! ELATED BY ALL HIS GOOD DEEDS, HE DECIDED HE SHOULD ALSO BE HEAD MAN IN THE TEMPLE, CERTAINLY ON HIGH OCCASIONS—AFTER ALL, OTHER KINGS DID THIS, DIDN'T THEY? WHO BETTER TO SERVE GOD IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES THAN UZZIAH, HIMSELF, WHO HAD DONE SO MUCH FOR HIS KINGDOM? BUT...

...WHEN HE MADE THIS ATTEMPT, HE WAS WARNED BY THE HIGH PRIEST, AZARIAH, THAT ONLY A PRIEST COULD LAWFULLY ENTER THE HOLY PLACE AND OFFER INCENSE ON THE ALTAR (2ND CHRON. 26:17-19). UZZIAH WAS ENRAGED AND ABOUT TO USE FORCE WHEN, THE BIBLE TELLS US, GOD, IN HIS ANGER, INTERVENED AND UZZIAH WAS SMITTEN WITH LEPROSY, THEN AND THERE! NOT ONLY THAT—THE DIVINE WRATH WAS SO TEMPESTUOUS THAT IT CAUSED AN EARTHQUAKE WHICH SPLIT THE ROOF OF THE TEMPLE AND SENT ONE HALF OF A MOUNTAIN, SITUATED TO THE WEST OF JERUSALEM, CRASHING INTO THE VALLEY BELOW, WHICH DESTROYED AND COMPLETELY COVERED UP THE ROYAL GARDENS! THIS WE HAVE ON THE WORD OF JOSEPHUS, THE ANCIENT HISTORIAN OF THE JEWS, WITH FURTHER CORROBORATION IN THE BIBLE (AMOS 1:1) (ZECH 14:5). FROM THAT DAY ON, UZZIAH HAD TO LIVE IN SECLUSION AS A LEPER, HIS SON, JOTHAM, ADMINISTERING THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT IN HIS FATHER'S NAME. A RATHER FORCEFUL REMINDER TO ALL ISRAEL THAT, NO MATTER HOW GREAT, NO ONE COULD GET AWAY WITH BREAKING GOD'S LAW!

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