

What Does God's Word Really Say? 8/11/2019 Sunday AM

Scripture:

Introduction

- Last week we discussed, **Does God's Word Really Say, All Life Started Out Vegetarian?**
- The quick answer to that question is yes when you read **Genesis 1:29-30**.
- However, that claim is questioned by the secular world because it doesn't fit what they think they observe.
- We discussed the fact that everyone has the same evidence today, we just interpret the evidence differently.
- We need to dispel Satan's attack on the Word of God, stand firm on what the Scriptures say, and able to defend what they say.
- But how can we do those things if we do not even know what the Bible says?
- That is why this morning we are asking, **What Does God's Word Really Say?**

Psalm 119:9-11 and 105-107

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. ¹⁰With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. ¹¹Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. ¹⁰⁶I have sworn and I will confirm it, That I will keep Your righteous ordinances. ¹⁰⁷I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.

- **Psalm 119** is a wonderful chapter that shows David's devotion to the Word of God.
- Notice in **v. 9** that David asks, "How can a young man keep his way pure?" He then answers his own question by stating, "By keeping it according to Your word."
- This along with **v. 11** is teaching us that if we want to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord, we must "treasure" or "hide" the word of God in our hearts.
- In **v. 105** David explains further that God's Word should be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, guiding us through this dark world.
- Notice throughout the passages that David is referring to God's Word in general and then speaks of his "commandments" and "ordinances." What David is saying is that he stands on ALL of God's word.
- Our Statement of Faith at UCC states our belief about the Scriptures:

"The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. By "Holy Bible" and "all Scripture" we mean the sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation which were originally written."

- The last line is one of the most important, we mean all 66 books and everything in them.
- The issue that we face in our church and every other church, is that people simply do not know what the Bible says. They do not have the appreciate that David had for the Word of God and they cannot stand on it.
- **Illustrations:** LifeWay Research surveyed 1,000 Americans in 2016 about their views of the Bible and found significant splits in how familiar they are with the Christian scripture.
- They found that 1/5 of Americans have read through the Bible at least once. That includes 11% who've read the entire Bible once, and 9% who've read it through multiple times.
- Another 12% say they have read almost all of the Bible, while 15% have read at least half.
- More than half of Americans (53%) have read relatively little of the Bible. One in 10 has read none of it, while 13% have read a few sentences. 30% say they have read several passages or stories.

- Below I have provided a Bible Quiz for you to test your knowledge of the Bible.

Test Your Bible Knowledge (Taken from The Washington Post, September 12, 2014)

- Which of the following is **NOT** one of the 10 Commandments given in Exodus 20?
 - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
 - Remember the Sabbath day.
 - You shall not murder.
 - You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
 - Who says: "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."
 - Abraham.
 - Job
 - David
 - Ruth
 - In all of the four Gospels, which of Jesus's miracles is mentioned only once?
 - Multiplying the loaves and fish.
 - Casting out the demon of the Samaritan woman.
 - Walking on water.
 - Turning water into wine.
 - The first martyr of the early Christian church was:
 - Stephen
 - Paul
 - Peter
 - Matthias
 - The manna that fed the Israelites during their 40-year-long trek through the desert tasted like:
 - Sand
 - Wheat pita
 - Wafers made with honey
 - Ashes
 - What was the first thing that Adam and Eve did after they ate the forbidden fruit?
 - Got seconds
 - Sewed loincloths out of fig leaves
 - Built an altar
 - Prayed for forgiveness
 - Why was the prostitute Rahab saved from the destruction of her city Jericho?
 - She hid the spies scouting out the land.
 - She sacrificed to God.
 - She promised to tithe.
 - She offered Joshua water from the village well.
 - In the book of Titus, the following list of characteristics "not arrogant, or quick tempered, or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain" is prescribed for:
 - Bishops/Overseers
 - Husbands
 - Wives
 - Disciples
 - Which New Testament book has Jesus in the Last Supper saying, "Do this in remembrance of me"?
 - Matthew
 - John
 - Acts
 - 1 Corinthians
 - Jesus's disciples were called Christians for the first time in the city of:
 - Rome
 - Jerusalem
 - Antioch
 - Corpus Christi
- How did you do? What if I was to ask questions like: Can you tell me all of the 10 Commandments?, How many wise men came to see the infant Jesus?, What animal did Mary ride to Jerusalem on while pregnant?
 - What if we went deeper than that and asked: When do you believe Christ will return? Before the Tribulation, Midway through the Tribulation, or After the Tribulation? What about where did Jesus go when he was dead for 3 days?
 - The point that I am making is that there is an ever-growing number of Christians that are biblically illiterate and our society is reflecting that.
 - How can you know what God's Word really says? **Step 1:** Get a copy. **Step 2:** Pray. **Step 3:** Read and Study it!
 - If you have questions, ask someone who is grounded in the Word and also utilize study tools that are available.
 - Let's make it our mission to ensure that the biblical literacy rate of those around us improves!