

# Bible Thoughts

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## The Scriptures

Have you been to a bookstore lately? I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 12:12 which states, “. . . **Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.**” (Ecclesiastes 12:12) However, verse 13 places emphasize where one’s priority should be, “**Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.**” (Ecclesiastes 12:13) Indeed, the greatest book available to man is the Bible. The scriptures originated from God and are profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17) Yet, there are many who neglect to take advantage of learning the will of God. Thus, decisions are made which are often contrary to the scriptures, and the consequences of such choices are devastating. Let us consider some important lessons within the scriptures which greatly affect our well-being.

### Salvation

We learn that the gospel is God’s power to save. Romans 1:16 states, “**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also the Greek.**” The scriptures are described as the word of reconciliation in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:19. In 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:22-25 one is purified as he or she obeys the truth – which is the word of God. (John 17:17) In Acts 2:37-42 individuals were cut to the heart by the preaching of the gospel, and responded in obedience to the word. Have you responded favorably to the scriptures?

### Guidance

The scriptures are often ignored for guidance in daily living. Human wisdom has become the replacement for divine wisdom. This has been and continues to be detrimental to our society. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:2-3 we read, “**Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.**” The lessons to be learned within the word of God go beyond the plan of salvation and acceptable worship. Consider the following which relate to daily life: The scriptures address the subject of marriage and reveal the importance of commitment in this relationship. (Matthew 19:4-6) A “*successful marriage*” can be had if both the husband and wife apply the biblical principles found in Ephesians: 5:22-33, Colossians 3:18-19 & 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4-8.

The scriptures address the subject of family life and reveal the importance of training which includes obedience to parents. (Ephesians 6:1-4 & Colossians 3:20-21)

The scriptures address the importance of the proper use of the tongue, as 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:10 states, “**For he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.**” We also learn God’s displeasure in the unrestrained tongue as revealed in James 1:26.

The scriptures address the type of attitude that benefits an individual and has a positive influence upon others. In Philippians 4:4 we read, “**Rejoice in the Lord always again I say rejoice.**” In 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:18 instructs, “**In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**” Colossians 3:23 states, “**And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.**”

The scriptures make known the Christian’s hope. (Colossians 1:5) It is that hope which becomes the anchor for one’s soul. (Hebrews 6:19) Thus, even under the most trying circumstances the Christian can have the same attitude of Paul and state, “**For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**” (Romans 8:18)

In closing, let us not forget the lesson to be learned in Acts 20:32 which states, “**And now brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**” Are we using the scriptures as our daily guide?

\* \* \* \* Chuck Kozens