

# “YE SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES”

## **INTRODUCTION**

Our topic for this hour is “Ye Search the Scriptures”. In John 5:39, we have the statement, “Ye search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me.” (KJV). Most translations render this as “Ye do search the scriptures”, or “You are searching the scriptures” (MLV). The words were NOT given as an admonition TO “search the scriptures,” but as a sort of rebuke to the Jews. They **did** search the scriptures because they “thought” they had everlasting life, yet rejected HIM who has power to give eternal life, and they would not recognize Him as the One the scriptures foretold who could give everlasting life. Jesus said ‘ye **think**’ ye have eternal life, **not** “ye have” eternal life, for **they** were rejecting Jesus as the giver of life.

This lesson is a challenge for **us** to improve OUR “search” of the scriptures, to give us motivation to **deeper** into God’s word—for a number of reasons.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, we search the scriptures to OBTAIN KNOWLEDGE.**

A. To have knowledge of **any** subject requires study on our part. Eph. 5:17; 3:4

1. The acquisition of knowledge is not inherited, or gained by wealth or age, or by visions and dreams, but through **study**.
2. Astronomers, physicians, lawyers, scientists and engineers have to study hard to learn their trade.

B. The scripture (the words of God), are provided for the purpose of obtaining a knowledge of GOD and spiritual things.

1. The scripture reveals the mind of God for the benefit of man in this life.
2. The inspired scripture contains all that is necessary for spiritual life. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Acts 17:1-4, 11

### **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we search the scriptures to GROW SPIRITUALLY.**

A. Human beings are both physical and spiritual in nature. 2 Cor. 4:16

1. Most of us are fond of feeding the outward man daily.
2. Shouldn’t we ALSO be fond of feeding the inner man as well—even more so? 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14

B. Though often neglected, the inner man is more important for responsible beings, than the concern of the outer man. Matt. 10:28; 4:4; cf Psa. 1:1-2

### **III. 3<sup>rd</sup>, we search the scriptures to AVOID IGNORANCE.**

A. Apart from the scripture, we are totally ignorant of God and His will. Jer. 10:23; 1 Cor. 2:7-10, 14-15

1. Knowledge of “right and wrong” helps us to **do** that which IS right, and **avoid** the wrong.
2. Knowledge of the “eternal consequence of sin’ will help motivate us to avoid that which will destroy us. 1 Cor. 6:9-10
3. Knowledge of God’s word helps prevent “moral and physical disasters” in this life on earth. Hos. 4:6
  - a. God destroyed the wicked in Noah’s day for their not knowing God and rejecting His warning through Noah.
  - b. God gave up Sodom and Gomorrah because they persisted in their ignorance. 2 Pet. 3:6; Rom. 1:24, 26-28

4. A knowledge of God's word assures us of the "coming end of the world." 2 Pet. 3:8-10
5. A knowledge of God's word gives comfort in knowing "we will be raised" to eternal glory at the end of the world. 1 Thes. 4:13-20

B. A knowledge of God in His word will keep us from ignorance in facing God in the judgment day.

1. Even the **creation** is sufficient to make men accountable to God, and to seek Him and His will. Rom. 1:18-20; Acts 17:30
2. A knowledge of the **gospel** will dispel the ignorance that would leave us in the darkness of sin. John 12:48

#### **IV. 4<sup>th</sup>, we search the scriptures to OBTAIN BLESSINGS.**

A. The scriptures reveal the blessing of **salvation** from past sins. 1 Pet. 1:22; Mark 16:15-16

B. The scriptures reveal the blessing of meeting **God's approval**. 2 Tim. 2:15

1. Some people only want to impress other people and gain **their** approval.
2. It is more blessed to please God, who approves of our conduct when we do right.

C. The scriptures reveal the blessing of the **hope of eternal life**. John 14:1-3; Tit. 1:2

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. We should ALL "search the scriptures" at every opportunity.

A. We can by being at every Bible class the church provides.

1. What one learns in a Bible class might **well** be something that will help us avoid hell and go to heaven when this life is over.
2. If we love God and His word, we should yearn for a better understanding. 1 Pet. 2:2

B. We can also "search the scriptures" at home.

1. We can do this by **READING** the scripture at home daily. Acts 17:11
2. We can do this by re-searching the scripture as we look at Bible related verses shown in the margin or center column of our Bibles.
3. We can also search through Bible study help books, such as commentaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances or other aids.

II. ALL of our efforts will pay off, when we come to the end of life's way, and ultimately hear the Lord say, "Enter into the joys of thy Lord."

A. Are you ready for that day?

B. If not, why not do that which is needed of you right now?

1. If you are not a Christian, you can become one by confessing faith in Jesus, repenting of sins, and being immersed in water to be saved.
2. If you have erred from the truth in your life, why not repent and let us pray together in your behalf?

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