

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Is It Really That Important????****Is It Really That Important????, on: 2012/9/28 7:49**

I know this thread will be quickly archived. These threads never last that long? But saints I ask. Is the Bible really that important to us? Please do not quote the pat answer. Just be honest. How important is the word to us?

I read of restricted nations where believers go to great lengths to own a copy of this blessed book? Even in places like N. Korea where one caught owning a copy of the word would bring instant death or imprisonment or death.

I recounted in a past thread how imprisoned believers in Eritrea treasured verses on scraps of paper. Saints how important is the word to us? Do we treasure it? Are we like Jeremiah who finds the words of life and eats them? They are the joy and delight of his heart?

There was a thread that was posted where Keith Daniels shared how Moody was transformed by reading chapters of the Bible. Sometimes for days on end. This was a man who had about the equivalent of a 6th grade education. Yet we regard him as one of the greatest soul winners in history. Yet this was a man God used to bring revival to America and Scotland. All because he found great faith through continually immersing himself in scripture.

Question. If that same book can change Moody. Will it not change us? I may not be the brightest bulb in this forum. I am a 61 year old blind man. I have no theological education. Compared to many of you my intellect is lacking? So I ask those of you who know Christ far more better than I ever will. Is the Bible really that important? Am I wrong to want to spend more time reading or listening to it?

Bearmaster.

Re: Is It Really That Important???? - posted by enid, on: 2012/9/28 9:15

Rather than start with my own opinions, I'll start with scripture.

Romans 10:17, 'So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.'

Matthew 24:35, 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.'

God's word is eternal, and for our faith to grow, we should be desirous and willing to spend time in God's word.

We read in scripture that man cannot live by bread alone, but by every word of God...

It also tells us in the Psalms of eating God's word, liken it to the honeycomb etc.

If we really delighted in God's word, and loved Him as we say we do, then, we won't have a hard time reading the word. And God will increase our understanding of His word.

I have seen things like the one minute Bible, and I wonder, what kind of person who professes Christ as Lord of their lives, can only manage one minute of 24 hours in His word?

God sees and knows all, so let Him see that we love Him and His word.

God bless.

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Re: , on: 2012/9/28 9:50

Enid I too have seen the One Minute Bible. For someone to spend one minute in the glorious word is like someone eating only a nutrition bar once a day and surviving. They would become weak and anemic. For sure that is what the church in America and even England is.

I am finding even in my own walk with Jesus I need more and more extended times in his word. And it seems it is never enough. But knowing persecution is coming. We need the blessed word to sustain us in the rocky times that lie ahead.

Bearmaster..

Re: , on: 2012/9/28 9:54

I will answer your question this way.

Luke 10:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to every word that proceedeth out of His mouth.

This is the word of God that I cherish. It's what God is speaking right now. When He speaks it's always in connection with the written word, but it's the word made alive by the Spirit and not just by reading it because faith cometh NOT by reading, but HEARING and hearing by the word of God.

When we see the words, "Word of God", we automatically assume the bible. But that is not what the Word of God is. The Word of God is Spirit.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

It doesn't say the "Bible" became flesh.

Now don't go the other way and think that the bible is not important, the bible is MOST important. But if a believer doesn't have one, then he has the Word to speak to Him and teach him.

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

It's important that we hear God speaking to us, so that when we do read or hear the bible we will know that the same voice that is speaking to us is the same One who spoke to the characters in the bible.

And it's no wonder that those in distant lands that obtain a page or a fragment from the scriptures why they rejoice, the same God they serve speak to them through what they read and hear. They will hold on to every whip stitch, unlike us today who can get a bible now from the Dollar Store for a buck, we do not see it as important as those who can't get a bible because we need to come under some hardship. We need some persecution. Persecution is our glory.

Re: Is It Really That Important???? - posted by stevet83, on: 2012/9/28 16:12

Amen bro! That's a good place to be. Truth, truly does transform. It ain't wrong to believe that, but you'll get a lot of flack from others. Stay strong.

Re: - posted by mama27, on: 2012/9/28 16:42

I thank you for your words, Bearmaster. I do not love the Word like I ought to, I do not love it like I WANT to....I pray that God would make me hungry. I am thankful that I am convicted - it means there is LIFE....

Re: mama27 - posted by RuthJames (), on: 2012/9/28 18:46

I feel like im kind of in that same stage... mainly because of school, im a high school student that doesn't want to lose my faith..and with home work, unsaved students, and more homework, it seems to get more complex reading my Bible, even though it shouldn't be that way and i feel so bad for hurting Him, because HE is my creator, the lover of MY soul. I pray for God to open my eyes to the importance of His word.

Re: Is It Really That Important????, on: 2012/9/28 21:19

the Bible enriches me and empowers me to fight the devil. he sure hates it. psalms, gospels, epistles... I read, I seek, I find grace, I worship, I thank Him, I grow, I learn. What a wonderful gift that God preserves His truth. Amen!

Re: , on: 2012/9/28 21:23

Ruth just start giving it 15 minutes a day. Say spend 15 minutes reading New Testament in the morning and 15 minutes reading Old Testament at night. In one year you would have gone through the Bible which is something most adults have not done.

The thing is you establish solid Bible reading habits when you are young. They will reap great benefits when you reach adulthood.

Sister will be praying God makes a way for you to be in his word.

Bearmaster.

Re: Is It Really That Important???? - posted by onemite, on: 2012/9/28 21:34

I know the first bible that I read seeking God, I was given in one of those countries that bibles are forbidden. It sat in my closet for over a year before I heard the Lord's call. Since the Word became life to me, I cherish having a bible. I usually have it with me at all times.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not thinking the book itself has mystical powers, no. Even the words themselves can remain lifeless. Jesus said, "you search the scriptures that you may find eternal life, and these are which testify of Me."

Once the Holy Spirit began teaching me and leading me to see Jesus in the words, well that WORD became ALIVE! Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." This Word, coupled with the Holy Spirit, transforms us through the renewing of our mind, conforming us to the image of the Son.

His Word washes me!

Now I have to say, that sometimes I read and it's blah.

They are just words and I can't seem to get deeper than the words. The memory, however, of seeing them come to life, seeing Jesus in the O.T, and seeing the character of God causes me to persevere and search out my heart and draw near to God asking for what is hindering. I believe God is always willing to reveal Himself to us through His Word. Sometimes it takes time and perseverance to push through my own pride but God IS a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Re: - posted by RuthJames (), on: 2012/10/3 19:41

Bearmaster,

Amen, thank you so much. I would really appreciate the prayers. I've been reading a lot of the new testament lately as opposed to the old, but i'll catch up on it soon!

i have a question: Are you in an environment that loves Christ?

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2012/10/3 20:08

hi, when i repented for the second time and was miraculously filled with Gods Spirit i searched for a church in new orleans. i found one in baker la.90 miles away. a small church filled with the spirit with baptist influence. i quit my good job in new orleans and got a job in baton rouge working at a gas station. the boss wanted me there to open up at 445am.i got paid for 2 hours and 15 minutes to read my bible for a year. the word was in my heart and on my lips. i memorized large portions that have sustained me these last 40 years since. God loves His word and will make a way if we agree to obey.jimp

Re: Onrmite, on: 2012/10/3 20:19

Brother blessed post. You remind us how precious the word is in those countries where scriptures are restricted . Brother may you keep pressing into God's Word and be blessed with fresh revelations from heaven.

Bearmaster

Ruth, on: 2012/10/3 20:37

Sister stay kn the New Testament for now. Camp at the feet of Jesus. Get to know him. Let him lead you into rich revelations from his word.

Ruth can't say I am in an environment that loves Christ. A lot of cultural Christians here. But few if any burn with a passion for Jesus and his word.

Will ve praying that God bless you richly from his word.

Bearmaster.

Re: Jimp, on: 2012/10/3 20:38

Brother wonderful testimony about his word being in your life.

Bearmaster.

Bearmaster - posted by RuthJames (), on: 2012/10/3 20:56

Okay, i will be sure to do that.

Oh wow, how do you keep your faith as well as you do?

Amen!

Re: Bearmaster, on: 2012/10/4 10:56

Ruth the only way I can keep my faith intact in an ungodly world is to stay close to Jesus and his word. As Moody said if you want to keep a broken bucket filled stay close to the faucet where the water is running. We as broken vessels who want to stay continually filled with Jesus need to be continually in his word and prayer. This is why I encouraged you to camp in the New Testament. Just immerse yourself in Jesus through his word.

Sister I get the impression you are in a secular high school. But have a love for Jesus. Start praying God would bring another sister into your life you could fellowship with. Start praying for your school. For God has placed you there to a light for the unsaved. You, as a living letter for Jesus, may be the only Bible those students see. For sure there are many in your school God may want to save through you.

Dear sister, you are the next generation of believers that God may use to complete his work of reaching the lost. We call it fulfilling the great commission. No doubt the Lord has some great things planned for you.

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Ruth people like me will soon pass on to glory. But sister the torch will pass to you. Prepare yourself to be used by Jesus. Stay in his word and prayer. For surely these are exciting times we live in as we wait for his return.

Breaux Bear..

Re: Is It Really That Important???? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/10/15 9:15

Yes, I love the WORD.

It is the only piece of lit in my possession that gives life because it is inspired, no less, by the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes I wonder why I have so many books when they do not give me the delight the WORD does. Sometimes I read a book through twice. If it is really good, will read it through periodically and that is because it details how God worked in the life of the writer or someone else. I love to read testimonies of how worked in the lives of his people. Awesome.

Yes, I love the WORD...I regard it as a love letter from the Father to his child - me. I sense his pleasure, his delight many times when I read it. No other piece of lit has this power. It is because these words have been empowered by the Holy Spirit. Awesome!

Re: Is It Really That Important???? - posted by Goldminer (), on: 2012/10/15 9:26

Although I am far from being a catholic, I recently read a biography on the life of Frances of Assisi, and was convicted by how he revered even pieces of the scriptures. If he found a shred of it he would reverently preserve it because he counted it sacred.

I see people sling their bibles around carelessly and it has always bothered me. It is God's word, and needs to be shown respect as such.

I could not live without God's word. I have been saved 36 years now and treasure my times of reading it now more than ever. I constantly ask the Holy Spirit to make my understanding fruitful because after that length of time I still know I can't understand it without Him, and I have so much more to learn.

It is a treasure right from the heart of God, we better not lightly esteem it. His word is a lamp unto my feet and light to my path....

Gokdminer and Ginny , on: 2012/10/15 9:35

Wonderful testimonies. I am praying that God grant me a continual hunger for his Word. Goldminer Paul West would love that testimony about Francis of Assisi.

Ginny thank you for reminding us the Bible is God's love letter to us.

Bear

Re: Gokdminer and Ginny - posted by onemite, on: 2012/10/15 11:44

bearmaster-

I didn't see your response to me- thank you.
and btw, I am a sister.

I pray we all keep hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

Re: If it is not that important?, on: 2012/10/18 8:41

I am promoted to ask this. If the New Testament is not that important in one's walk with Christ. Then why were Wycliff and Tyndale put to death for translating the New Testament in the vernacular of the people? If the New Testament is not that important in one's walk with Christ. Why were early saints out to death for possessing a copy of Scriptures? If the New Testament is not that important in one's walk with Christ. Then why were the Anabaptist put to death for reading the scriptures and living by them?

If the New Testament is not that important in one's walk with Christ. Then why our previous believers imprisoned and put to death today in nations like Eritrea, N. Korea, Iran, China, and other nations.

I am perplexed. Saints in times past and present gave their lives to own a copy of his blessed Word. Yet in the west it is not regarded as that important. In the west the theological writings of men are esteemed. In the persecuted it is the Word of God that is esteemed. In the west it is theological knowledge that is esteemed. In the persecuted it is knowledge and the experience of him who is the Word that is esteemed. Or should I say that we lived out.

Have the persecuted saints discovered something that we in the west are missing? Back to the question posed in this thread. Is it really that important to read the word?

Bearnaster

Re: - posted by enid, on: 2012/10/18 9:37

Irrespective of what Westerners might say, this is what the word of God says.

Psalm 1:2, 'But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night'.

This believer delights in God's law, God's word, and does not make excuses to not read it.

Ezra 7:10, For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

Ezra's heart was prepared concerning God's word. It was not an ordeal for him to read God's word.

Matthew 24:35, 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.'

Everything else, whether written or otherwise, will soon pass, but not God's word.

Since man cannot live by bread alone, it is not that that we need to sustain us, but every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

It would appear, that the reason we have no room for the word of God, is that we are too full.

Re: Is It Really That Important???? - posted by Goldminer (), on: 2012/10/18 10:29

This is such a great thread, because it brings us face to face with what we really believe. As I was reading about those who gave their lives for the word I am reminded of the fact that it is likened to a two edged sword. It frightens some because it cuts, and they want it watered down so they don't have to change. Thank God that some really treasured it down through the centuries and preserved it for us. Hallelujah. His world is glorious, 100% true, and to die for.

Re: Enid, on: 2012/10/18 10:31

Indeed dear sister. If one has no room for God's word what are they full of? If a person satisfies his physical appetite with junk food. Then there is no craving for the healthier food by which they can be nourished. It is the same in the spiritual man. Fill your mind and heart with the junk of this world. There is no room for the pure word of God to nourish our souls.

Thank you for the scripture you shared. I am so reminded that everything that was written in the past was written to teach us. So that through endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

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Bearmaster.