

II Timothy 2:15

B Q U H F Y J A I D E M A H S A T A
 B B Y I I J S P Y K L O B Q U A H S
 R I B A I G I P W V M U B E I L F G
 I A V O A W D R Y O T T T B O T J H
 O M T S Z P P O G N A C M P P L R H
 Q N G S Y S A V S E H X W N R G O I
 U I U X T A D E J A T H O G I V I J
 J D O U W T E D K K U Z M Z G T A Y
 H B D T I E H J X Z Y C J P H G O Y
 S Y C B N O Y O G F K X C N T J X N
 F N Y A R Z T B T Q I N W Y L O Y G
 S G K X B F W G H R H T I O Y F W W
 H A K Y R D Y O E T U W H T R C C V
 M D F D Y U X Q R P E T K Y H D C W
 D I V I D I N G Y K W D H H S E X W
 D B Y H X U T H X D M E E G S E L Z
 O X T D I J N T V F S A H E O T L L
 G Y J L C N O Q Q N V K N S N K F F

*Words to Find:
 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

Truth or Fiction?

Bill Brinkworth

Paul warns us that in the last days of the church, sin will be rampant. He lists 19 different sins the churches of the end times will be guilty of in II Timothy 3. All of these iniquities have always been committed by individuals throughout history. In the last days, however, the commission of these sins will change civilization, and they will be committed without guilt or restraint. Although no man knows exactly when the Lord will return for His church, one has to admit that the prominence and rampant involvement of the sins listed in this chapter describe today's spiritual condition very well.

One particular sin has done much damage to the cause of Christ and Christian living. It may look Christian; it may use religious and Christian vocabulary. Perhaps it may even involve many doing things that are biblically correct, but it is very deceptive and dangerous. This sin is watered-down, liberal Christianity. It is a "... form of godliness, but denying the power thereof ..." (vs. 5), and it is doing so much damage in the world today.

Most want to please God and believe He is real sometime in their lives. Many look for Him in a church. They go there; but instead of hearing the true Word of God preached and practiced, they

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The **Bible View**

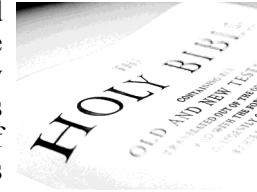



A free publication from: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com Vol.: 416

Another Reason for Reading the Bible

Bill Brinkworth

The compiled Word of God, the Bible, has many purposes. It tells man the mind of God; what He likes and disapproves of; how to live; how to die; how to be successful; why one fails; and many other important life lessons.



There is another purpose for having God's preserved Word. That reason is so man can learn from examples of those in the past. A wise man should not want to repeat the errors of others. Reading and learning from others' mistakes is one of the reasons God allows us to have His preserved Book. "Now these things were our examples ..." *I Corinthians 10: 6* "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples and they are written for our admonition ..." *I Cor. 10:11*

Although the vehicle of temptation, sin, and trials has changed

appearance and may not look like it did 6,000 years ago, basically it is the same. Man may no longer be tempted to have a chariot like his Roman neighbor's, but today he is tempted to lust after a car just like his neighbor's. Seldom does a man lust after watching a woman bathe on a roof-top as did King David, but lust still rages through pornography available on the internet. A

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How Can I Understand?

Bill Brinkworth

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

I Corinthians 2:14

Many people try to understand the things of God, but they never truly grasp their truths, nor do they seem real to them. They may have studied the Scriptures, memorized them, and appeared very

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person may not spend his time worshipping a silver idol, but many still put more value on material things than the things of God. Fewer gossip at the city market as was done in the past, but more talk about others quite a bit on the phone or e-mail.

Man really has not changed, and because he is basically the same, we can learn about how problems were dealt with in the past, what their consequences were, and how people could manage to get through the hardships they faced. They are recorded for us in God's Word.

A wise man learns from others' mistakes. He also follows advice and wisdom that has worked in the past. The Bible contains much of man's wisdom, and most importantly, God's wisdom on how to get through life. God went through a lot of trouble to make sure we have every word He wanted us to have, so we can have a successful life. Are you a wise person, and are you reading God's example book?

How Can I ...

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knowledgeable of biblical facts, but there still seemed to

"If you want to hear from the Father, you must speak the same language."

be a veil that did not allow them to grasp the truths from the Word of God. Preaching also may be entertaining and even interesting to them, but the truths spoken to them from the pulpit never get into their heart and change anything in their lives. Many even feel church attendance is meaningless, and that is why they seldom attend.

It is often not the preacher's fault that they "get nothing from the service" or that they "do not feel convicted". The verse in I Corinthians 2:11 puts the finger on who really is responsible, and why there is a spiritual connection missing in their lives. The reason that they are not grasping biblical truths or are not Spirit-led is that they are "natural" men and women. They are either not born-again and cannot have a relationship with the Lord until they are saved, or may be saved and are so worldly-minded that they could not hear the convicting Spirit of God if He blew an air-horn in their left ear. A "natural" man is one that is just the way they were born, without any spiritual alterations, illuminations, and connections.

No one can understand the things of God unless the Holy Spirit shows them to him (I Cor. 2:11). A person can have a head-knowledge of biblical and spiritual things, but unless the Holy Spirit is involved there will never be a connection from what the brain knows to what the spiritual "heart" of a person be-

lieves. Many educated preachers have been in left field in regard to understanding the things of God, because they were under their own power of understanding and not the Holy Spirit's. Education alone does not make the "connection".

Preaching and the things of God are not appreciated and meaningless to a "natural" man. However, the preaching of the Word of God is important to a saved man. The exhortation of God's Word and its teaching are spiritual food to a spiritual person. It encourages, guides, and strengthens a child of God. To him, it is foolish not to be at church where God's Word is taught.

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only hear partial truths and a lot of humanistic, unbiblical teaching. Because so many do not search and study the Scriptures themselves, they soak up and believe lies. Sadly, so many will die and open their eyes in a dark, tormenting hell only to find out that they were led astray by false teachers, preachers, and lies. This is why Paul said to stay away from any church or ministry that does not line up with what the Word of God teaches (II Tim. 3:5).

However, as dangerous as it is, unless people find the truth in the Word of God for themselves, they will never see the lies they

may have been exposed to. To make matters even worse, even the Word of God has been tampered with by those that are deceiving those searching for the truth. Words have been added to the Bible; and words have been removed or changed. Even if they pick up a modern translation (any other than the KJV version for English-speaking people), they are still only getting a "... form of godliness."

Some seminaries have strayed far from biblical teachings and practices producing unbiblical preachers. Denominations have replaced the Word of God with their own writings or modified a bible to teach what they believe. Some organizations have discarded biblical references and have created their own philosophies and religion.

As the time approaches for the Lord's return, it is getting more difficult to find churches that teach the truth. However, we cannot not blame them alone for their errors. Most of the time they have been allowed to stray from biblical teachings, because there were none or few that even knew the truths the Bible teaches. That is why it is so important, as II Timothy 2:15 says, to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." If more would delve into the Scriptures for themselves, there would be fewer watered-down, unbiblical teachings from pulpits that would go unchallenged.