

Search The Scriptures

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

Do you know the scriptures, at least to where you have a working knowledge of the will of God? There are a lot of church going folks who don't seem to know a lot of the bible and of the doctrines that it teaches. I have known of those who could not take the bible and show a person what the Lord said about being saved. It is not enough that we tell someone how to obey the plan of salvation as taught by the word of God. We need to show them that God said to do it and not that we say it of ourselves.

So often people can talk of technical matters, politics, money, history, and the all important sports, but can hardly talk about the scriptures. It is not that they don't have the ability. It is that they haven't had the interest to learn about it. The ministers are supposed to know it and if they have a question we are supposed to tell them and save them the trouble of studying it for themselves. This is something that is very important and should be

given a lot of thought.

Jesus said to the believers, "Search the scriptures," and He said it to show us all that it is up to us to know His word for ourselves. There are so many things that no one else can do for us, and if it is to be done we must do it ourselves. No one can believe for us and no one can learn for us. Could you enter a profession without ever having learned the skills and knowledge of that profession? Would another person who had the skills and the qualifications be able to tell you all that you needed for you to be able to do the job? If that wouldn't work, then how could anyone be naïve enough to think that he could live for the Lord and do his will without knowing what his will is?

It goes back to the scripture where Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matt. 6:21.) We do the things that interest us and that we take pleasure in. That which doesn't provide some enjoyment, we don't bother with unless we have too. The Lord gave us the word of life, not only to instruct us, but to comfort us as well. It is not a burden to read the word of God, it is a blessing. Remember he said, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." **Romans 10:17**. It also brings faith and joy when we read the great promises of God. Someone said that if some-

one gave you a document that gave you a great sum of money, or land, you would eagerly read it to see what you had. God gave you His word and tells of forgiveness of sins, blessings in this life and eternal life in heaven with Him. I have more people tell me various excuses for not reading it, than those who talk of reading scripture.

Can you explain to someone how to be saved? How about living the Christian life and serving the Lord? I have seen people who have gone to church for years who couldn't do this. Why? They were intelligent people. They just had not given any time, or not much time to searching the scriptures. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear," **1 Peter 3:15**. We are going to be asked by someone why we live as we do. Why we go to church, why we don't drink, and do a lot of things that the unsaved often do. Just saying, "I go to church," doesn't say enough. We need to tell why we go to church and why we don't do things that conflict with the word of God.

Jesus didn't tell us to do anything without a good reason. When He said to search the scriptures He knew that we couldn't be an effective witness without knowing why we followed Him.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

CAIN and ABEL

SEIZED BY JEALOUSY AND ANGER, CAIN KILLS HIS BROTHER ABEL AND THEN RUNS AWAY... BUT HE CANNOT RUN AWAY FROM GOD--WHO CALLS TO CAIN AS HE FLEES....

CAIN!

WHERE IS ABEL, THY BROTHER?

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THE VOICE OF THY BROTHER'S BLOOD CRIETH TO ME FROM THE GROUND.

NOW THOU ART CURSED FROM THE EARTH--A FUGITIVE AND A VAGABOND SHALT THOU BE IN THE EARTH!

MY PUNISHMENT IS GREATER THAN I CAN BEAR. EVERYONE THAT SEES ME SHALL SLAY ME.

WHOSOEVER SHALL SLAY THEE, CAIN, UPON HIM A SEVEN-FOLD VENGEANCE SHALL BE TAKEN.

WITH GOD'S PRONOUNCEMENT, CAIN IS LEFT TO WANDER TO THE STRANGE LAND OF NOD-- THERE TO LIVE THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN REMORSE AND BANISHMENT.

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