

The Place of the Scriptures in the Life of a Believer
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"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of our God standeth forever." Isa. 40:8

I hold in my hand the most powerful instrument in all the world - the Holy Bible. There is nothing or any combination of things that can compare with its power. What men with education, culture and influence cannot do; what nations, armies, tanks, airplanes, atomic bombs cannot do; what nothing else can do - this Book can do!

This is the most profound, heartsearching, revealing Book in all the universe. Men have cursed it, burned it, banished it, but it is still the world's best seller. No book has been so scrutinized. Every word has been taken apart. Tens of thousands have spent their whole lives in its study and teaching. Infidels read it to prove its error and are converted, sitting in awe over its pages.

In nearly every court in America, men place their hand on a Bible and swear to tell the truth. Its pages are stained with the tears of penitent sinners and praying mothers. Men neglect it during life, but in death listen eagerly to every word. Why? "The Word of our God standeth forever!!"

The Scriptures, therefore, should have a very prominent place in every part of a true Christian believer's life. First of all, we need the Word of God in our heads. "Faith cometh by hearing." We must have knowledge if we are to obey God and believe on His Son. The crying need today in America is a knowledge of the Bible, its precepts, commandments, righteous judgments and story of redemption.

Secondly, the believer must have the Scriptures in his heart.

"Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." The knowledge we have must be made the governing force in our lives. Every thought, word and deed, every decision in business, at home, in school, in church, in life should be decided by scriptural principles. A Korean native, who had memorized the sermon on the mount, was told by a missionary that he must now live that sermon in his life. He replied, "That's the way I learned it", and explained that he had memorized one portion at a time and then went out to practice it.

After a head knowledge and a heart experience, the believer ought to have the Scriptures in his hand, "not handling the Word of God deceitfully". Do we have the Bible truths and select portions at our finger tips so that we may give it out to others? There is one great secret to a successful use of the Bible. "Search the scriptures ---- they are they that testify of me", said Christ. Dr. Moorehead threw a map of the U.S., all cut to pieces, to his two young children and said, "Put it together". The children were about to give up when one discovered the picture of a man on the reverse side. Soon it was together and turned over. "There's a man in it", they exclaimed. So Christ is the key to its message and use.

Then the Scriptures should have first place in our homes. "And from a child thou has known the scriptures." The family altar is a necessity in every Christian home. Newspapers, magazines, comic books, school studies, the radio and television are crowding God's Word and prayer out of many homes. This must not be. Better that our children were ignoramuses and know and reverence God's Word, then have all knowledge and be ignorant of the Bible.

Finally, what is the place of the Scriptures in the House of God of believers? The pulpit, not altars, drapes, sculpture, paintings,

candles, crosses, etc., must be central. We are told to "go preach", "go teach". Every service, every class, every organization and effort should be about God's Word. It is our compass on the sea of life. Book reviews, programs, movies, etc., cannot and must not take the place of gospel teaching and preaching. "There is only one book, the Bible", said Scott. Gladly will we be called a people of one Book. What place does the Holy Scriptures have in your life?

"We need them, we must have them, in our heads, our hearts, our hands, our homes and House of God."