

REDISCOVERING THE WORD

Text: II Kings 22:1-13

Key Word: Bible

Key Thought: We Need to Make a Continual Commitment to Study God's Word

One thing that I am very thankful for is the Word of God that has been passed down for thousands of years from generation to generation. There is no other book that can compare with this one. No other book can claim God as its author!

No other book needs to be rediscovered as this book does. It is a sad fact that it has been lost for the most part in our North American homes. Some statistics offer reasons for concern.

******* A nationwide religious survey of 4510 adults conducted by the Angus Reid Group showed that 78% of Canadians considered themselves "Christian" - yet only 20% read their Bibles even once a week.

International Bible Readers Association reported that 85% of professing Christians have never read through their entire Bible.

The Sunday School Adult Quarterly of the Church of God recorded the results of a recent national survey: 10% of church members cannot be found; 20% never attend; 25% admit they never pray; **35% admit they never read their Bible;** 40% admit they never contribute to the church; 60% never give to missions; 70% never assume responsibility; 85% never invite anyone to church; 95% never win anyone to Christ. Yet, **100% expect to go to Heaven.**

Nations of the world need to rediscover its Bible. **There Are Three Questions I Would like Us to Ask Ourselves Today.**

I. HOW IS THE BIBLE LOST?

II. WHERE IS THE BIBLE LOST?

III. HOW MAY THE BIBLE BE REDISCOVERED?

I. HOW IS THE BIBLE LOST?

" . . . repair the Temple of the LORD"

II Kings 22:5

History shows that we seldom neglect the house of God during times of trial and persecution. Most people turn TO God during difficult times. Have you ever noticed how godly people become after natural disasters take place? "I thank God for saving me." "If it wasn't for God . . ." I truly believe that there are no atheists in foxholes.

If the Bible is not lost through trial and tribulation, then how is it lost? **Is it not lost simply through neglect?** Life becomes busy and we don't have time to read the Bible anymore.

One truth that is very dominant throughout Scripture is that when the Lord's house is neglected that His Word is also neglected. We cannot have a love for the Bible and neglect the house of God. We may wonder how we neglect the house of God? Our faithfulness to attend services is often an indication of our consistency of Bible reading. **Those who don't consistently attend services seldom read their Bible consistently.**

The Bible is lost through neglect by most Canadians!

We are living in a world that desperately needs the Word of God in their lives.

"A Bible which is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't!" The key to victory is
"It is written."

C. H. Spurgeon

"The only way to keep a broken vessel full is by keeping the faucet turned on."

Michael Green
#65

Our nation's neglect for the Word of God and attendance in the house of God is showing itself through disastrous effects. We should never depend totally on the feeding we get during a service(s) for our spiritual growth. **We must all discover the Bible for ourselves.**

I. HOW IS THE BIBLE LOST?

*** There is a fishing village where, for many years, a flock of sea gulls fed on the scraps the fishermen left. All was fine for the sea gulls until eventually the fishing became poor and the villagers moved down the coast where the fish were plentiful.

The sea gulls did not follow the fishermen and - because they had lived off the scraps of the fishermen and had never learned to feed themselves - the entire flock of birds died.

Believers who feed only on what others teach them are like these foolish sea gulls. ***

Michael Green
#72

Lets not lose our Bible and our lives through neglect! If it's not in the home, it won't be in the schools.

II. WHERE IS THE BIBLE LOST?

"I have found the Book of the Law in the Temple of the LORD."

II Kings 22:8

We need to ask ourselves whether we can improve on getting the Word of God into our Temple. Is it possible to totally lose the Bible in our Churches? I'm not sure what is worse, a watered down Bible or no Bible at all.

*** Years ago I had a visit from several Jehovah Witnesses. They were trying to get me to take a copy of their "Awake" and "Watchtower" magazines.

I noticed how they try to use cover stories that grab the attention of their readers. I stopped them in their subtle approach and told them of my concern of using the "New World Translation" as a source for their doctrine.

It is very important what translation of the Bible we use. If it is not accurate, it should not be used. God does not want His Word changed. I quoted John 1:1 both the way they have it translated and the way I believe is correct. The little word "a" can change the whole meaning of the text. ***

Not only is the Bible being lost in our Churches, it is also being lost in our schools.

II. WHERE IS THE BIBLE LOST? (Contd.)

THE BIBLE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I'd like to see the Bible placed
Where the Bible used to be,
Upon the top of the teacher's desk
For every child to see;
I'd like to hear the teacher say,
As my teacher used to do:
*"Before we work or play, dear ones,
I want to read to you."*

I'd like to see the teacher stand
Before the class again
And lift with reverent care the Book
That makes God purpose plain.
And ere the youngsters went to work
I'd like to hear her voice
Repeat those words of truth and faith
That makes one's soul rejoice.

I'd like to see her face light up
At each resplendent word
And watch the children's souls shine out
At the message they have heard;
I'd like to see the sweet content
Fill the dear room, each nook,
And know that joy had come to each
When the Teacher reads the Book.

Yes, I'd like to see the Bible placed
Where the Bible used to be;
I'd like to hear it read aloud
In the schoolroom of the free.
I want my children taught to know
God's matchless gift of love,
The Book of books is wisdom's gate
To that bright school above.

Author Unknown

Our Bible has lost its significance in places of authority - the law of the land, churches, parliament, schools, places of employment, homes and our hearts.

III. HOW MAY THE BIBLE BE REDISCOVERED?

"And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king."

II Kings 22:10

It will take both our commitment and our time to get the Bible back into its rightful place in our lives.

*** Princetown University discovered in a study that doing something for 21-28 days will form a habit.

According to a study by Stanford University it takes hearing something seven times in order to make an opinion. It takes an additional seven times to internalize what is heard. A person must hear a truth 11 times in order to change a false conception. ***

If all this is true, then time is an important factor in rediscovering the Word of the God.

*** Consider the difference between a strong and a weak cup of tea. The ingredients are the same - water and tea. The difference is that a strong tea results from the tea leaves left immersed in the water longer, allowing the water more time to get into the tea and the tea to get into the water. The longer the steeping process, the stronger the cup of tea.

In the same way, the length of time we spend in God's Word determines how deeply we get into it and it gets into us. Just like the tea, the longer we are in the Word, the "stronger" we become." ***

I would like to suggest a way for all of us to spend more time in the Bible. **How many of you here today would like to commit themselves to reading more of your Bible this year than you did last year?**

Recent studies show that the average person spends 45 minutes a day in their car. If you listened to the Bible during this time, you would hear the entire NT every 24 days and complete the entire Bible every 14 weeks.

The # 1 most requested option on new cars is a stereo with a CD as well as a USB port. A University of California study found that the average person drives 13,000 miles each year and that if this time was used to listen to educational materials, in three years an individual would have the equivalent of two years in college.

III. HOW MAY THE BIBLE BE REDISCOVERED? (Contd.)

Is there anyone here who could not readjust their daily schedule to have quality time for God? What I want to recommend is considering spending 37 minutes a day reading or listening to the Bible. That is what it will take to complete a reading of the entire NT in 30 days. **Would you be willing to devote a month to create a habit that will benefit you for the rest of your life?**

*** In the mid 70's I purchased a copy of the NT on cassette tapes. It was the first time I ever heard a dramatized version of the Bible. I enjoyed it very much. My understanding of the Bible increased significantly. God was also able to speak into my heart a number of things He wanted for me. My life began to conform to His Word.

It was one of the most beneficial things I ever did as a Christian in developing a habit of Bible reading. I eventually gave my set of tapes to a missionary in the NWT who told me that the Inuit people loved listening to the Word. Many of them had never learned to read or write. They literally wore the tapes out. ***

"The Bible is not only the world's best seller. It is man's best purchase."

"The sword of the Spirit never becomes dull from use."

I. HOW IS THE BIBLE LOST? - Neglect

II. WHERE IS THE BIBLE LOST? In Places of Influence

III. HOW MAY THE BIBLE BE REDISCOVERED? - Changing our Priorities and beginning a new commitment

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Date: Jan 17/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Take my Life (Take me heart and form it) - F

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