

Love Thy Neighbor in Service

Danger, Will Robinson!

The great alarm system. We in America spend large sums of money protecting ourselves from possible harm. Our military is the largest in the world. Our homes often have extensive systems for fire and burglar protection.



Another system for much greater protection does exist. The source is one rarely considered, and that is the Bible. Originally, I thought reading the Bible was some form of minor suffering we were to go through for God.

I had an old King James Version, and I remembered saying I was going to read at least five minutes a day no matter how little I desired to be reading. The Bible simply did not make any sense to me. The book was long, confusing and very disjointed. Additionally, all the thee, thy and thou words of Old English were too difficult. I could however get parts of Jesus message in the New Testament and his ideas (while they sure seemed true) scared me.

As I finally became more serious in my searching I ran across a New International

Version (published by Zondervan) called the Life Application Study Bible. The words were in plain English and could be easily understood. Additionally, the Life Application Study Bible had incredible notes giving both insight into the history and the actual application of the scriptures to my life.

As time went by reading became less of an exercise and more seeking knowledge of the Father. Ultimately, after several years the whole story of the Bible came alive and was real in daily living. The overall story is the fall from grace with God through the original sin (Adam & Eve) and His plan of redeeming a lost people (you and me) through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Bible is actually a collection of 66 books written by multiple authors over a 2,000-2,500 year period.

What is incredible is that while written by multiple authors, it is still a continuous story of God redeeming us through a people (the Jews) and a specific family line including King David. Ultimately, the conclusion is reached through the death (sacrificial) and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

More Than Just Rules

I had also thought that the Bible was simply a set of rules to keep us from doing things. Don't do this. Don't do that. Just say no! It is however something totally different. We all can so easily see what is wrong with the life of anyone else. I am certain, were you to visit the ministry, you would see something that could be done in a better or more efficient manner. The Bible operates on the same principal. It is full of actual lives, the mistakes made by consistently turning away from God and the normally awful results.

As you read you can just see the disaster coming. Often we say to ourselves: How in the world could he or she be so stupid? We find out when we manage to get ourselves in the same situation and wonder how we were so stupid to end up in the same place. An odd thing does occur however when reading the Bible becomes a daily activity and has been for an extended period. A much

(Continued on page 2)

Love Thy Neighbor Program Services

Christian Counseling

Telephone Resource Services

Shelter

Transportation

Food

Emergency Cash Assistance

Ask how you can help!

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matthew 22:39

Love Thy Neighbor In Service

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Please feel free to contact John at his new email address. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your support of our ministry.

What can you do?

We need your prayers! It is the most important thing you can do for the ministry.

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
(James 5:16 NIV)*

LTN is committed to spreading the Gospel by Christ's example to "love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:39. To this end, LTN has designed programs with the purpose of helping clients build a relationship of faith in God, regain their dignity and eventually, regain their self-sufficiency. Contact us to learn more about the services and programs.

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(Continued from page 1)



greater insight occurs for preventing mistakes in daily living.

We have all made choices that did not seem too bad at the time. However, the ultimate result of the choice only got worse over time, and we were forced into more poor

decisions to try to get out of the mess. The idea is known as the slippery slope.

If only there were a way to know in the first one or two steps that a path was leading to trouble. When one reads the Bible consistently an alarm system gets set up in your mind. As we travel the journey of life decisions come every day. Through reading the scriptures we slowly learn what God's will is for many of the decisions we face. When we come to the fork in the road the question will arise.

Do I go my way or His way?

By reading the Bible consistently, certain scriptures will literally go off in your mind reminding you of exactly what His way is in the circumstance you face. If however you

have no idea what His way is you will not even know a question should be posed.

I can however, after talking to hundreds of homeless people, tell you that destructive decisions can almost always be traced back to making a decision outside of God's will.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

(Psalms 119:105)

The idea is simple but absolutely clear. The word of God (Bible) provides insight and clarity to the path we are traveling. Unfortunately, if you are not in the Bible you have no real idea what direction your life should take each day.

May God bless you!

John Chapman, Jr.