

GIVE ME THE BIBLE

Revelation 20:11-15

INTRODUCTION

- A. Our text – RE 20:11-15.
1. The resurrection has taken place, and John is viewing the Great Judgment Day. He sees all the spiritually dead stand before God – vv. 12-13 – they are not written in the Book of Life. The books were opened out of which the world shall be judged. The law of God will determine guilt or innocence. JN 12:48; RO 2:16; HE 2:1-4.
 2. The Book of Life (or of the Living) – this is God’s record of the lives of those whose names are written therein (OT and NT saints). It is essential that MY (YOUR) name be written in the Book of Life at the time of judgment.
 3. We must remember that OUR names can be blotted out. EX 32:32-33; PS 69:28; RE 3:5. If our name is blotted out the consequence is found in v. 15.
- B. We are aware of the Bible. Most people in the USA are aware of the Bible. BUT, most people do not know anything about the Bible.
1. The problem is that most people don’t take the time to read and study it in any significant way.
 2. It is too much of a bother to them; they don’t think that their investment of time will be worth it.
- C. Let us on this the first Lord’s Day of 2010 look at the value the Bible has for our lives and why it is important that we take the time to study, learn, and apply its principles to our life.

DISCUSSION

- I. GIVE ME THE BIBLE SO I CAN LEARN WHO GOD IS.
- A. That GOD exists is plain to the honest and inquiring mind. Acts 14:17.
1. All people everywhere have known that God exists.
 2. However, without a communication from GOD, none have the ability to learn anything about GOD. Acts 17:23.
- B. Is GOD like us, or is GOD different, and alien?
1. The common mistake is to think too much of GOD as being like us.
 2. Those that are deists make GOD too much unlike us.
 3. The problem with idolatry is that it is a fundamental perversion of GOD in its essence. EX 20:4.
- C. In reality, GOD is like us, yet very different from us.
1. We are made in the image of GOD! GE 1:27.
 2. Yet God’s ways and thoughts are far beyond us. IS 55:8-9.
- II. GIVE ME THE BIBLE SO I CAN LEARN WHO I AM.
- A. People of all ages have wondered who they are.
1. On the surface this is a ridiculous question.
 2. Yet all children ask it: “Where did I come from? Why was I born?”
 3. These are all attempts to find out who he/she is!
- B. Only the Bible tells us who we are.
1. It tells us that we are God’s creation created for His pleasure. GE 1:26.
 2. We are both spiritual and physical. GE 2:7.
 3. It tells us we are the highest creation on earth, yet we are limited also. PS 8:3-6.
- C. We can understand many things about ourselves that puzzle us.
1. Why are we not satisfied when material needs are completely set?
 2. Why do we feel guilty when we sin, for animals don’t?
 3. Why does boredom bother us? Why do we feel a compulsion to be productive?

4. Why are we concerned with eternity?
 5. Why are we concerned with justice, equity, compassion?
- III. GIVE ME THE BIBLE SO I CAN LEARN WHAT MY DESTINY IS.
- A. Only the Bible can give us insight into our ultimate destiny.
 - B. The Bible makes it clear that we are here only for a time, for a trial.
 1. EC 12:13-14.
 2. MT 16:26.
 - C. Our destiny is either Heaven forever or Hell forever. RO 2:6-11.
 1. Hell will be the reward for living for ourselves and this world.
 2. Heaven will be the reward for living for GOD and others.
- IV. GIVE ME THE BIBLE SO I CAN LEARN WHAT MY RELATIONSHIP IS TO THE WORLD.
- A. How are we, as spiritual beings, to relate to our material world?
 1. We could just use it till it is gone since we will be gone.
 2. We could worship it as the provider of all we need for life.
 3. We could look at our purpose in life as being to care for it.
 - B. The Bible reveals that we hold this world in trust, as stewards. GE 2:15; Cf. 8:22.
- V. GIVE ME THE BIBLE SO I CAN LEARN WHAT MY RELATIONSHIP IS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD
- A. It is a fact that the biggest part of our world is not the material of which it is made, but the people who are in it with us.
 - B. The Bible tells us that all people are valuable in God's eyes. JN 3:16.
 - C. The Bible tells us that only slightly behind our obligation to love GOD is our obligation to love our fellow man. MT 22:39.
 1. To love my fellow man I am to forgive him.
 2. To love my fellow man I am to sacrifice from my own welfare for their welfare.
 3. To love my fellow man I am to treat them like I want to be treated. MT 7:12.

CONCLUSION

- A. Questions: How many books did you read last year? Question: How many of us bought a product with instructions? Did we read and follow them?
- B. The Bible is the most valuable book that has ever been written.
- C. However, the Bible is of little value to ME unless I apply its principles and teachings to MY life.