

THE CHRISTIAN'S STEWARDSHIP MANUAL

The Bible Is Our Map

2 Timothy 2:15

Part I

A young boy came home from Bible School and immediately went to his room and began to sing. His mother went to see what was happening. She found him standing on his Bible singing. "Why are you standing on your Bible?" I learned it in Bible School today, he answered. You know mamma. We sang:

The B-I-B-L-E — yes that's the book for me.
I stand alone on the word of God
The B-I-B-L-E — BIBLE!

He may have missed the figurative meaning, but he had the right idea. The Bible is the book we stand on. It is the map for the Christian's journey from cradle to grave.

It is God's inspired word to us.

The path before us all is an unknown one. It may be confusing and difficult – even dangerous – at times. Before us may be potholes and debris, which could result in injury or even death. It could be like an unmarked highway with detours. It is all so confusing. Which way shall I go? What road shall I take?

Since God loves us so much He has given us the Bible, an authoritative map to direct us on our Christian pilgrimage. It is of no value to us, however, unless we know its contents.

Every year the Bible is the best seller on the market. That is not a bad record for a book that is over 2000 years old.

But it makes no difference how many Bibles are sold, if they are not read and believed and followed. It is sad that the Bible may be the best sold and the least read and understood book in the world.

For example:

A man attended an auction and heard the auctioneer ask: "What am I offered for this beautiful bust of John Milton?" A man in the crowd called out, "That's not Milton. It's Shakespeare." To which the auctioneer replied: "Well folks, that's one on me. Shows how little I know about the Bible."

I think this is the reason God challenges us to “Study to show yourself approved unto God a workman that needs not to be ashamed.” (II Timothy 2:15) Notice we are to study the word of God. We are to approach it with a hunger to know God’s message for our lives and with an eagerness to obey His commands.

The verse says we are to show ourselves “approved unto God.” The word translated “approved” means to be tested and to meet the standard of the one testing. In practical terms it means you have read God’s word, obeyed His commands, followed His directions and He has placed His stamp of approval on your life.

You may not have the “Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval,” but you can have God’s. Remember, “If you please God it doesn’t matter who else you displease and if you displease God it doesn’t matter who else you please.”

My wife was a tremendous Christian and a devout Bible scholar with graduate degrees. The Bible was the map for her life!

In her later years she had Alzheimer’s with all its problems. She was unable to remember names, faces, and places. I discovered an amazing thing however.

The Alzheimer unit where she was being cared for had Bible study sessions, which she attended regularly. When asked a question she would quote the Scripture verses and interpret them fluently. I asked her on one occasion - “You tell me you can’t remember things, that your mind just won’t work, yet you can quote long passages of the Bible and pray clearly. How do you explain it?” Her reply was, “I remember them with my heart, not my mind.”

There was never a time when she was not aware of His presence. Like the Psalmist she said, “Thy word have I hid in my heart.” When the “Word” is in your heart God is there also.

I have a bachelor friend who says, “I can marry anyone I please. Unfortunately, so far I haven’t found anyone I please.”

Our supreme desire is to please our Savior and to do this we must find, follow, and faithfully obey the direction given in His map for our lives - the Bible.

At first we may not find our Lord’s teachings of stewardship, for example, to be appealing but when we begin to obey, we discover that it truly is, “more blessed to give than receive.” And as our map leads us into eternity we shall hear His words, “Well done good and faithful servant.”

*Lord, it is the desire of my heart to hide your word in my heart
so that I may give with a willing heart.*