

Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet Lesson 1 2Q 2007

Read first paragraph of the introduction to the quarterly – any thoughts? Does it matter what version we use? Do the specific words matter or is it the thoughts conveyed that matter? Does God inspire a prophet by dictating text or by revealing truth, concepts ideas and leaves the prophet free to write the concept in the language he knows?

Read the second paragraph of the introduction “It’s not just...” Thoughts? It says it is not just the revelation of God but emphasizes the impact on people’s lives-

Has there ever been people who believe in the Bible who become evil, severe, abusive, coercive will burn people at the stake etc.? Here the Bible changed their lives but in a destructive way – why? What is the key? The kind of God one believes is revealed in the Bible. Can lives be changed for good as long as we hold to lies about God?

Is the Bible the only book that brings hope to millions of people? Koran? Book of Mormon – do these books bring hope? But what is the true source of our hope? The truth about God Himself and only the Bible, rightly understood, reveals the genuine truth about God.

Does that mean the HS cannot reach someone with the truth about Him in other settings?

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:20

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) Romans 2:12-15

God is working to bring the truth about Himself to all peoples, and while the Bible is the clearest revelation we have, God is not restricted to the Bible. He can reveal Himself to people who haven’t been blessed with a Bible.

Lesson 1 The Voice from Heaven

Read memory text – how does God speak to us? Why did His Son come?

Read second paragraph – “Of course...” Thoughts?

What does it mean “If our value wasn’t infinite in the sight of God, such an infinite price would not have been paid for our redemption”?

First, did it cost God to heal and restore mankind? Yes, why? Because, it was the only means whereby the truth which restores trust could be revealed and the infection of selfishness purged and God’s Law of Love written again into the species known as human. No other means or method of accomplishing this existed.

What about the idea that man was of infinite value – if that is true wouldn’t that mean there is nothing of greater value? Can you have something greater than infinity?

Consider this EGW statement:

It was in order that the heavenly universe might see the conditions of the covenant of redemption that Christ bore the penalty in behalf of the human race. The throne of Justice must be eternally and forever made secure, even tho the race be wiped out, and another creation populate the earth. By the sacrifice Christ was about to make, all doubts would be forever settled, and the human race would be saved if they would return to their allegiance. Christ alone could restore honor to God's government. The cross of Calvary would be looked upon by the unfallen worlds, by the heavenly universe, by Satanic agencies, by the fallen race, and every mouth would be stopped. In making His infinite sacrifice Christ would exalt and honor the law. He would make known the exalted character of God's government, which could not in any way be changed to meet man in his sinful condition.

Who is able to describe the last scenes of Christ's life on earth, His trial in the judgment hall, His crucifixion? Who witnessed these scenes?--The heavenly universe, God the Father, Satan and his angels. {ST, July 12, 1899 par. 2}

Was there something of even greater value than mankind? What?

SUNDAY

Read first two paragraphs in Sunday's lesson – thoughts? Why could Adam and Eve no longer talk to God face to face? Why could Moses not look on God's face and live?

Why were Adam and Eve afraid of God? Had God changed? Was God out to get them? Was God their enemy? Was God required by justice to inflict punishment upon them? Where did the fear come from?

From believing lies – lies believed about God broke love and trust and result in the establishment of fear and selfishness...

In Genesis 3:9 God comes to the garden and calls out "Adam where are you?" Why did God do this? Read bottom pink section – thoughts or comments?

What does it say about God that He approaches us like this?

MONDAY

In the middle of the lesson it describes two attitudes we can have toward prophets we can believe them or reject them and then the lesson states, "Either we believe in what God says to us (often through His prophets) or we don't. In the end our attitude toward the prophets merely reflects our attitude toward Him." Thoughts? Do you agree?

Is it possible for someone to have a bad experience with a prophet yet a good experience with God? Is it possible for the writings of a prophet to be misused and abused such that a person comes to develop negative feelings, ideas, beliefs about the prophet whose writings were twisted and therefore reject the prophet while loving God?

Are we to accept whatever a genuine prophet of God says or are we to think about it, examine it with our God given reason and only when we are convinced by evidence that appeals to reason apply it to our lives?

Is everything a genuine prophet says applicable to all people in all times? Did Paul say that a woman should not teach men? Are there examples in Scripture where women did teach men? Then is this inspired direction universal in its application or local to that situation?

Are all prophets true prophets? Can a prophet prophecy lies at one point and truth at another? Balaam? The old prophet? What does this mean?

Are we ever supposed to surrender our thinking to another – even a prophet? Or are we always to retain our own judgment, weigh the evidence and come to our own conclusion?

Bottom portion of Monday's lesson it asks, "How do we know...."
Thoughts?

What were they deceived into believing? Were they deceived into believing that there is no God and we evolved? Were they deceived into worshipping on the wrong day? Were they deceived into believing there was no need to tithe? Were they deceived into believing that the Temple of God was not important and there was no need to follow His instructions regarding its upkeep? What were they deceived into believing? Lies about God Himself and what did those lies cause them to do regarding everything else they believed?

They practices Satan's methods in carrying out God's instructions! How is this, will this be, manifest today?

Read bottom pink – thoughts?

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? Did we ask for it? Did we need it? What does this say about God – While we were yet sinners Christ died for us! God was reaching out to save us before we even realized we needed Him!

Read second paragraph – thoughts – what lessons should we learn from the life of Christ, about the character of God, that we as Christians seem slow to learn?

God will or will not judge?
God will or will not condemn?
God will or will not inflict external punishment?
God will or will not become angry at sinners?
God will or will not freely forgive, without appeasement?
Others?

Read bottom paragraph – very well stated!

Bottom pink – anyone care to share?

WEDNESDAY

In what ways does God reveal Himself? What ways have you seen God's true character? His word, EGW, preachers, teachers, parents, spouse, children, nature, movies.

Bottom pink section – what does the Lord command us? To love, can love be commanded? Then what is going on? Micah 6:8

The Lord is telling us that the universe runs on the Law of Love, the Law of giving, beneficence and this is the base code, the operating code for all life to exist and if we want to live we must be brought back into harmony with this universal principle or life will cease. He is telling us about the reality of the universe but He always leaves us free to accept or reject the truth He presents.

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? Does this mean we are to read the Bible like a code book, the Bible says it I believe it that settles it, or is the Bible designed to get us to think, contemplate, understand and appreciate God for ourselves?

Last paragraph – excellent – all Bible truths must be studied from the perspective of what they say about God how the truth about God's character of love is revealed.

FRIDAY

Read question 1 – thoughts? Will God ever give up? Romans 1:24,26,28 – why? What would cause God to give up? Where there is no longer any possibility of healing and recovery.

Read question 4 and discuss.