

Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet Lesson 7 2Q 2007

The Word in Our Lives

Any thoughts about the picture? The headless Bibleman?

SABBATH

Read memory text – thoughts? Does this text refer to the Words that proceed from the mouth of God, i.e. God speaks and it exists? The Word which was made flesh and dwelt among us? The Bible? Or all three?

Read last paragraph “What is it about...” Thoughts? Does the study of the Bible always change lives for the better? Christ said, “you search the scriptures because in them you think you have eternal life, but these are they that teach of me.” and He said, “You search the world to find a convert and when you do you make him twice the son of hell as he was before.” Do you think their converts were taught to study the Bible?

How can study of the Bible actually make someone worse? How can we study the Bible and experience Godly transformation? The Pharisees were studying to find some secret to benefit themselves – eternal life. But Christ’s followers study to learn of God, to find God!

SUNDAY

In the fourth paragraph it states, “Scripture pours out a flood of light on us, pushing back spiritual darkness and revealing to the world the truth about a loving, powerful God who seeks to transform the lives of all who come to Him in faith.” Thoughts?

Does God seek to transform only the lives of those who come to Him in faith? Or while we were yet sinners Christ died for us? Is God seeking to transform the lives of those who are His worst enemies? How does God seek to bring about this change? What are God’s methods for healing and transforming us?

John 8:32 you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. How does the truth set free? Free from what?

Ephesians 4 we present the truth in love

Romans 14 Every person is to be fully persuaded in their own mind

Isaiah 1:18 come let us reason together

What are God’s methods – present the truth in love and leave us free? Why is this method so important?

What does God want for us and from us? He wants us to experience the full joy of living like He lives, the full joy of living lives of pure love! Can love exist without freedom? Can love be generated by force, coercion, intimidation or might?

Let's keep these principles in mind as we look at the rest of the lesson which asks us to apply God's Word to our lives.

TUESDAY

Read first two paragraphs, thoughts? Does God's Word give us principles to live by? YES! Do principles give us rules to apply exactly the same in every circumstance or are we suppose to apply the principle differently depending on the circumstance?

Does God's Word teach us the principle of loving others? Yes, would this principle be the basis of Christ's statement to turn the other cheek if someone strikes you? What if your 5 year old hits his parent in anger, does the loving parent turn the other cheek and let the child go on hitting the parent whenever he wanted? Is love the motivator in both places? Do actions change depending on the situation?

Does the Bible give us explicit directions in how to behave and what choice to make in every circumstance?

WEDNESDAY

As we discuss some of the issues in Wednesday's lesson, let's keep in mind God's principles of presenting the truth in love and leaving other's free.

"Those who cannot impartially examine the evidences of a position that differs from theirs, are not fit to teach in any department of God's cause." {1SM 411.2}

Read second example "A young woman..." Thoughts?

So, should we be able to objectively examine both sides of this issue?

Can someone give me a Bible verse that explicitly and directly states that abortion is wrong?

"Thou shall not murder" Does this apply? Would one individual killing another individual with a sword violate this? What about Samuel hacking up king Agag? Did Samuel violate the commandment not to murder? What about the children of Israel killing every man woman, child and baby as they conquered numerous cities? Does this mean there are some circumstances in which killing another human is not a violation of the commandment? What about stoning someone for violations of the law?

Does the commandment necessarily apply to abortion?

Exodus 21:22-25 “If some men are fighting and hurt a pregnant woman so that she loses her child, but she is not injured in any other way, the one who hurt her is to be fined whatever amount the woman’s husband demands, subject to the approval of the judges. But if the woman herself is injured, the punishment shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.” GNT

Exodus 21:22-25 “When there’s a fight and in the fight a pregnant woman is hit so that she miscarries but is not otherwise hurt, the one responsible has to pay whatever the husband demands in compensation. But if there is further damage, then you must give life for life—eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.” The Message

Exodus 21:22-25 “When people who are fighting injure a pregnant woman so that there is a miscarriage, and yet no further harm follows, the one responsible shall be fined what the woman’s husband demands, paying as much as the judges determine. If any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.” NRSV

Thoughts? Other versions say give birth prematurely, or baby come out or lose her fruit. Do you think some of the people translating these Bible versions are trying to deceive? Or do you think there is an honest difference of opinion among these very dedicated Christian scholars?

Do you think the Bible gives a command explicitly clear on this issue?

So how do we answer the question “What saith the Word of God?”

Read fourth example, “A person you are witnessing...” Thoughts? The question is not what you would do but what does the Bible say?

“And the pig, though it has a split hoof completely divided, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.” Leviticus 11:7,8

“The pig is also unclean; although it has a split hoof, it does not chew the cud. You are not to eat their meat or touch their carcasses.” Dt 14:8

ISA 66:15 See, the LORD is coming with fire,
and his chariots are like a whirlwind;
he will bring down his anger with fury,
and his rebuke with flames of fire.

ISA 66:16 For with fire and with his sword
the LORD will execute judgment upon all men,
and many will be those slain by the LORD.

ISA 66:17 "Those who consecrate and purify themselves to go into
the gardens, following the one in the midst of those who eat the
flesh of pigs and rats and other abominable things--they will meet
their end together," declares the LORD.

Is the Bible clear we are not to eat pork?

MT 15:10 Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and
understand. ¹¹ What goes into a man's mouth does not make him
'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes
him 'unclean.' "

MK 7:14 Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me,
everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a man can make
him 'unclean' by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a
man that makes him 'unclean.' "

MK 7:17 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his
disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸ "Are you so dull?" he
asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the
outside can make him 'unclean'? ¹⁹ For it doesn't go into his heart
but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this,
Jesus declared all foods "clean.")

MK 7:20 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him
'unclean.' ²¹ For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil
thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² greed,
malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All
these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "

Thoughts?

Does eating pork make someone a child molester? Does eating pork
make someone an embezzler? Does eating pork make someone hate God?

Does eating pork make someone a liar? Does eating pork undermine one's physical health? In all circumstances?

Remember Uruguay Soccer team whose airplane crashed in the Andes mountains October 12, 1972? They were stranded on a glacier at over 12,000 feet for 72 days. What did they eat? Why did they eat it? Did eating what they ate condemn them to eternal loss and ruin? Was it sin for them to eat what they did?

In regard to eating the pork what is the principle involved? Keeping the Spirit Temple healthy to be more in tune with God and more useful in His cause. In regard to what is happening when you are invited to someone's house, what is the principle? Loving others as God loves you, you are witnessing to others about God; Showing them the love of God in action – could it mean that in one circumstance you might be willing to sacrifice yourself to reach someone else and eat the pork?

When God came down from heaven to meet with Abraham what did Abraham do? Fix him meat – what did God do? Eat it – do you think meat was on God's heavenly diet?

But, if you believed it was sinful and disobedient to God to eat the pork, how could you handle this situation?

Read last example – thoughts? Does God's word give a clear direction in such circumstances?

THURSDAY

Read the last two paragraphs – thoughts? How should the Bible impact on governmental policy making? Is it the role of the government to study the Bible and determine what God wants and pass laws according to the Bible?

Or is the role of the government to provide an atmosphere where individuals are free to pursue God according to their own conscience, without infringing on the right of others to do the same?

FRIDAY

Question 1 – read and discuss, what is the central focus of Bible study supposed to be? Is the Bible a code book for us to follow or a love letter written to reveal God to us?