

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What causes men to search the scriptures?
2. How do we hide the word in our hearts?
3. Is God's plan for man always easily understood?
4. What is needed to be able to understand God's Word?
5. What makes God's Word a Living Word?

SUMMARY:

The Bible is God's message to man (written by men through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) as a guide leading mankind to a better land—eternal in the heavens. The Bible is a living word that springs to life within the person who prayerfully and faithfully seeks to find God's will and purpose for his life. The same Holy Spirit which gave instructions for man to write will also reveal the Bible's meaning to those who search it with the proper attitude toward God.

NOTES:

[SoF:8] We believe that a saving faith results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, without which there is no salvation.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

August 31, 2014

Third Quarter

THE BIBLE, OUR GUIDEBOOK

LESSON TEXT: *Psalm 119:1-16*

LESSON SETTING: The psalmist praises God for His Word.

TIME: Unknown

- I. BLESSED BY THE WORD.** Psalm 119:1-4
 - A. Those who hear and keep. Matthew 13:16; Luke 11:28; James 1:25; Revelation 1:3; 22:7
- II. TAUGHT BY THE WORD.** Psalm 119:5-8
 - A. Highest call to learning. Romans 11:33
 - B. Textbook to eternity. Ephesians 1:13-20; 2 Timothy 1:10
- III. CLEANSED BY THE WORD.** **[SoF:8]** Psalm 119:9-11; Ephesians 5:26-27
 - A. Coupled with obedience. 2 Kings 5:14
 - B. Coupled with faith. Luke 5:12; John 15:3
 - C. Coupled with prayer. Psalm 19:12; 51:10
- IV. REJOICING IN THE WORD.** Psalm 119:10-16
 - A. Joy in obedience. Psalm 119:14, 47, 49, 76-77
 - B. Joy in promises. 2 Peter 1:4
 - C. Joy in salvation. Psalm 13:5

GOLDEN TEXT: *THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.*
Psalm 119:105

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 11:1-13

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 18:1-14;
1 Thessalonians 5:17

QUARTERLY THEME: The Bible and The Christian Life

TOPIC: PRAYER, OUR PRIVILEGE

INTRODUCTION:

We are told in 2 Corinthians 3:18 that we should reflect the glory of the Lord. We are in reality reflectors, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, we should reflect the light of God's love. We are told to let our lights shine. Why? So that those about us can see that we belong to Him.

Shining and reflecting His image, can only be done by constant communion with Him, by being one with Him. A life spent in the closet upon our knees allows an infilling of thoughts constantly stayed upon the Lord in and out of season.

What a blessed privilege is ours to have this prayer-life. In it we praise and thank Him, confess our sins and receive forgiveness, ask, seek and knock, and find fruition. We live a closer life with Him as we learn more and more of this prayer-life we live more and more in harmony with His will. This brings us joy and peace unspeakable and our faces shine with it.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Jesus practiced prayer and urges us to pray humbly, earnestly and persistently. A prayerful life will enable us to have a powerful witness.

GOLDEN TEXT: *ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU.*

Luke 11:9

God has many blessings that He bestows on all mankind. In the beginning it had been God's perfect will to shower only good upon the earth. But when sin entered the world, all the attending misery and afflictions also came upon man. Thus we are subject to illness, accident, natural and man-made disasters, and finally death. Yet God, in mercy and loving-kindness still blesses all mankind, *"for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."* (Matthew 5:45)

But when we consider the Spiritual gifts, which pertain to salvation, we find that we must ask God for them, that we must desire them with our whole heart. Thus Jesus encouraged His disciples and also all of us to ask, to seek, to knock at the door of God's kingdom. We should "pray without ceasing" for the good gifts of salvation, the best of which is the "Holy Spirit." (Luke 11:13)

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 1 - 7

M. The Motive in Prayer. Matthew 6:1-7
T. Results in Prayer. Matthew 7:1-11
W. Humility in Prayer. Matthew 8:5-13
T. Perseverance in Prayer. Mark 7:24-30
F. Jesus in Prayer. Mark 14:32-42
S. *Prayer, Our Privilege. Luke 11:1-13
S. Importunity in Prayer. Luke 18:1-8