

## I KNOW THE BIBLE SAYS IT...SOMEWHERE (?)

Members of the church of Christ were once known as a Bible quoting people who were quick to give book, chapter and verse for all doctrinal statements. It was an enviable trait which caused the simple New Testament Christian to be readily recognized. It is not as often true today as in days of the past. Of course even the most learned student of the Bible may have lapses in memory. And the fact one cannot remember where it is found does not mean it is not there. However, it must be admitted that when one's contention is questioned and he is not able to produce the passage; an opportunity is lost. It is never a convincing and certainly not an impressive argument to say, "I know the Bible says it, but I cannot remember where".

What is the solution, or perhaps a better question might be, what is the problem? Obviously, a lack of study is an evident barrier to specific recall. However, a lack of commitment, devotion, and dedication to the Lord and His word will produce negligence and indifference in Bible study.

Please read prayerfully the following passages from both the Old and New Testaments:

Isaiah 34:16 ***"Search from the book of the LORD, and read:..."***

Psalms 1:2 ***"...But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night."***

John 5:39 ***"You search the Scriptures, ..."***

2 Timothy 3:15 - 17 ***"and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."***

1 Timothy 4:13 - 16 ***"...give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. ...<sup>15</sup>Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, ...<sup>16</sup>Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."***

Acts 17:11 ***"...searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so"***.

1 John 4:1 ***"...do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."***

John 8:31 - 32 ***"...If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup>And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."***

John 14:15 ***"If you love Me, keep My commandments."***

In view of the preceding scriptures and many more that might be cited, it seems evident that what we need is a greater love for the Lord and His word in our time. One evidence of the proper love will be more dedicated study of His teachings.

**An apparent travesty and paradox is that those who need it most are those who neglect it most. It is difficult to get some members of the Lord's church to attend regular sessions of Bible study with others to gain more familiarity with the Scriptures. One excuse heard is, "The classes are too elementary, or too boring, and I do not get anything out of them." Yet, strangely, many who have been studying longer and more diligently, and consequently, know the Bible better are often heard making a contrary statement.**

**The solution therefore becomes manifest. Study sincerely and become devoted and dedicated totally to the Word of Truth. Commit self to learning as much as you are able of His revelation to us. It was given for our good you know? The next time you are in a Bible discussion with someone, instead of trying to prove a point by saying, "I know the Bible says it, somewhere!" Instead, say, "I will find where the Bible says it." Then find it, or concede your inability.**

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