

Bible Profits

I want to write a little about Bible “profits” (benefits), not about Bible “prophets” (men who preached). How can a person like you profit or benefit from reading the Bible? Whether you read your Bible for one minute, or for one hour, what can you do to best profit or benefit from your reading? Paul says that the scriptures are “profitable” (2 Timothy 3:16). Here’s how to profit:

First, understand your Bible’s purpose (2 Timothy 3:16). The scriptures are designed to teach, reprove, correct, and instruct in righteousness. Your Bible is concerned with helping your soul.

Second, recognize your Bible’s power (Romans 1:16). God’s word can actually change your life if you will let it (Psalm 19:7).

Third, receive your Bible’s message with meekness (James 1:21). Recognizing its power is not enough, you have to receive it and allow it to work in your life (1 Thessalonians 2:13). The reception of it will depend upon your attitude of meekness.

Fourth, share your Bible’s message with others (Acts 20:20). When you share it with others, it will profit you as well.

Are you profiting from the your Bible reading? Only when you understand what your Bible is really about can you profit from reading it. - *Chris Reeves*

Up-Coming Events

- Plan now to attend our up-coming gospel meeting, April 20-23, 2017.
- Plan now to attend our up-coming VBS, June 5-9, 2017.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

“All Have Sinned...” (Romans 3:23), But Why?

Paul wrote in Romans 3:23: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” We know from this verse that all have sinned, but why have all sinned? Why do all men and women sin? That’s the question I want to answer in this article.

All responsible people sin. This truth is clearly taught in the scriptures (see 1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:12; Galatians 3:22; 1 John 1:8,10). This fact has never been an issue among those who believe God’s word.

No one (except Jesus) has lived a sinless life and no one will be justified before God on the basis of sinless perfection (Romans 3:20). The just punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23). Therefore, to be saved from death, we must be justified on the basis of God’s grace (including the blood of Christ, faith in and obedience to the gospel, and baptism into the body of Christ).

The issue is this: Why do all men sin? Men sin, but do they have to sin? Current religious thought says that since “all have sinned,” then all must sin. But, there is a difference between saying, “all have sinned” (like Paul said), and saying, “all have to sin”. There is a difference between what a man can do, and what a man must do. So, what does the Bible say?

Well, there are two approaches to this question. The first approach is man-made: men have to sin because they have a

“sinful nature” in them. Their “sinful nature” makes them sin. This is a spin-off of what John Calvin taught long ago about men being “totally depraved”.

The problem with this approach is that it is not biblical. If men have to sin, then God is unjust. How can God condemn us for doing what we have to do, or cannot keep from doing? Also, if men have to sin, a lax attitude toward sin and its consequences is encouraged. People would say, “I am only human ... I have to sin, so why worry about it?”

The second approach is biblical: men choose to sin. They choose to give in to temptation (James 1:13-15). If men sin, then they choose to sin, and God is just for condemning the sinner (Romans 1:20ff; 2:1ff). If men choose to sin, then men are held accountable for their sins (read Ezekiel 18). If men choose to sin, then they must also choose to meet God’s conditions of forgiveness. The Bible teaches that since we do sin (choose to sin), then we are sinners (not the other way around, as the Calvinist teaches).

So, what about the so-called “sinful nature” of the Calvinist? He says that we have a “sinful nature” and he appeals to Ephesians 2:1-3. Read this passage carefully. The Ephesians were “by nature children of wrath” because they practiced sin (i.e., a habit of sinning; see the “trespasses and sins” in v. 1b is plural), not because their sin sprang from some innate “sinful nature.” Note also in this passage the past tense: “were dead...once walked...once lived...were by nature children of

wrath” (verse 1-3). Their practice of sin was in the past, but not now. If the Ephesians still have (present tense) a “sinful nature”, these verses don’t make sense.

The Bible truth is that men choose to sin, that’s why they sin. Let’s remember some basic Bible truths. First, we do not have to sin because we can overcome and resist temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:8). Second, we do not have to sin because we are commanded not to sin (John 5:14; 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:34). Read 1 John 2:1. John did not write in 1 John 2:1: “Keep your sinning down to a minimum”. He wrote: “that you may not sin”. Sin in the life of the Christian is not the rule, but the exception. Third, we do not have to sin because we have Jesus as our example (Hebrews 2:17; 4:15). He lived in a wicked generation and he was tempted as a man, yet without sin. Man, like Jesus, can resist temptation and sin!

Why do all men sin? Because all choose to sin through lust and succumbing to temptation (Romans 6:16). No, we do not have to sin! If we are to have fellowship with God, we must stop sinning (1 John 1:5 - 2:1). If we sin, we must comply with God’s terms of forgiveness (see Acts 2:38 for the non-Christian and Acts 8:22 for the erring Christian).

May our attitude always be that of David in Psalm 119:11: “*Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.*” - Chris Reeves