Clips from Psalms
Psalms 105:28-31
Jehovah’s Wonderful Works in Behalf of Israel

“God sent darkness to Egypt and made it dark; and they rebelled not against his words. He turned their waters into blood, and slew their fish. Their land swarmed with frogs in the chambers of their kings. He spake, and there came swarms of flies, and lice in all their borders.”

Why Should I Study the Bible?

I Should Study the Bible because God said that I “Ought” to

The author of Hebrews stated, “For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God…” (Hebrews 5:12). The word “ought” is defined as “to be obliged (constrained or indebted) to do a thing” (Liddell and Scott's Greek English Lexicon page 580). The Hebrews Christians did not recognize the urgency for Bible study. They let time pass, apparently through a lack of interest, and thereby did not grow spiritually. The Bible ought to be studied because God gave His Son Jesus as a sacrifice for sins (Hebrews 2:13-15). Jesus represents truth and so we “ought” to be interested and thereby motivated to know something about it (John 14:6).

I Should Study the Bible because it Contains Vital Instructions

Where I spend eternity is determined by my knowledge of the scriptures. Jesus said, “if ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). The Bible contains ‘vital’ information without which one will spiritually die. Jesus tells us that the truth shall set us free from the bondage and doom of sin (eternal spiritual death). Heaven is at stake in the lives of people and so I should desire to look into God’s word. Paul told Timothy, “Give diligence (study) to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).
I Should Study the Bible because it will Train my Mind to “discern good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14)

The word “discern” means to make a distinction or judgment. If I view the Bible as a useless mass of unrecognizable words then how can I ever make a distinction or judgment regarding things that are good and things that are evil? Bible study will help me form God’s word into recognizable instructions and a way of life that will mold my character. I will be able to distinguish between unlawful acts and lawful acts (Romans 7:7). If I have no knowledge of lawful acts then I will be sinning in ignorance of God’s word because sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). To be uninformed is a dangerous state of mind in any field of study.

I Should Study the Bible to Avoid the Ping-Pong Ball Approach to Life

Like a ball on a ping-pong table that is slapped in every direction so is the mind of one who has little knowledge of God’s word. Such a one hears differing doctrines of men and makes no real informed decision when a course it taken. Such a one does whatever he thinks ‘sounds like a winner.’ The apostle Paul described such in Ephesians 4 saying that such are “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error” (Ephesians 4:14). Uninformed decisions lead to heart aches and eternal ruin.

Why Should I Study the Bible?

I should study the Bible because God said that I ought to. The Lord knows that an uninformed man, in relation to sin, is doomed to eternal failure (Jeremiah 10:23). God has so loved mankind that He has given us His words that will guide us to the paths of righteousness and on to our eternal heavenly home. When one chooses a life without the guidance of God’s word, one suffers problems in the church, home, and work place. All problems that one can create in the church, home, and work are directly associated with a lack of Bible knowledge. Why not make the Bible a recognizable and understandable book of instructions by picking it up and simply reading and studying it?

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Christian Warfare

Throughout the Old and New Testament we read of battles between the forces of good and evil. God destroyed Egypt by way of Moses. God destroyed the Midianites by way of Gideon. God destroyed Goliath and the Philistines by way of David. The Lord predicted colossal battles to come against his Zion of the future as well (see Ezekiel 38:1ff and Revelation 20:7-10 / 13:1-7). These battles will be fought in places one would least expect it (see Ephesians 6:10-12). The Apostle Paul stands as an example of one who fought against the principalities of wickedness in heavenly places (see 1 Corinthians 9:26 and 2 Timothy 4:7). The command for all who would name the name of Jesus Christ is to fight (see 1 Timothy 1:8 and 6:12). Let us examine a few elements of Christian warfare today in the year 2013.

I. Be familiar with Available Weapons (2 Cor 10:4 and Ephesians 6:14ff)
   A. Know what you are fighting for
   B. Know the cost - family / friends / church
   C. Seek out strength in the Lord (see Haggai 2:4; Zechariah 8:9; Eph 6:10).

II. Know the Enemy
   A. Know that Satan is at work in the lives of men and churches and his desire is to destroy God's church - Don't be naive to this fact (Revel 12:13-17).
   B. Satan's flood of wickedness comes in the form of worldliness (1 John 2:15-16) - lust of the flesh and vain glory - riches / fun / entertainment / a life of interest in the things of this world (see Psalms 51:5).
   C. Names of Individuals and their wicked Doctrines (Jeremiah 28:17; 1 Timothy 1:20 and 2 Timothy 2:16-17).
   D. Name of churches that are holding up the hands of the wicked (Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 11:18).

III. Know that God’s True Church will Never be Defeated - Revelation 18:1-3
   A. Psalms 48:1-6 The Lord of host has made his city Zion known as a fortress that is not to be toyed with.
   B. There is nothing that may stand before God’s might of Zion. She is indestructible and eternally established (Zechariah 4:7).

Conclusion

We are at war! The devil has called his myriads of wicked and devices of sinfulness against the saints. We were born into this world of sin and sorrows (Psalms 51:5). The cost will be great on earth yet the rewards are eternal. Now is the time to open our eyes to the wickedness all around us and fight.