

Finding Our Way By Using God's Word

by Dean Moore

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105, KJV

We should try to appreciate what an extremely high privilege it is to receive revelation from the Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe! "As the heavens are higher than the earth," so is God's wisdom higher than man's "wisdom" (Is. 55:9)! We should also try to realize how frail and needy we are (Ps. 39:4). If we think seriously about how all of our needs are going to be met, we will conclude that we are not able to supply what is needed. Mankind, in general, tends to trust in human ability first, and when all this fails, then they seek God! But unless they have made the right preparation, they will not know how to find Him. God's revelation of truth is essential. It is essential to know the means which He has provided for receiving forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with Himself. *He* must reveal His own nature! The Bible tells us: "There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). It also says: "As for God, His way is perfect" (II Sam. 22:31).

It should be very evident that His desire for man is man's welfare; He desires that people live, not die! Yet, because of human rebellion and wickedness, there has to be suffering and death. We should be extremely thankful that the Supreme Being of the universe is holy, pure, righteous, and therefore cannot permit people to live in evil indefinitely. One of the greatest wonders of history is the longsuffering of God! One example is the time of Noah. God had been putting up with human wickedness for centuries before the time of Noah, but also waited years while the ark was being built and the people warned of the coming judgment (I Pet. 3:20). Divine judgments during history have been warnings of the time of judgment at the close of the age. We are told: "Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there would be no

flesh saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:21, 22; Dan. 12:1).

The beginning of man's life was supernatural! He was made a person after the likeness of his Creator. He was the highest form of creation on earth with superior intelligence, emotions, and a conscience, as well as freedom of will. For such a high privilege, he needed supernatural wisdom. He was not made to be independent and self-sufficient. There is no substitute for Divine wisdom! Although man has been trying thousands of other things, all have proved disastrous.

We see in the history of Israel that God was revealing wisdom and knowledge concerning Himself. It was His purpose that they be His witnesses to the other nations of the world (Is. 43:10). They were faithful during certain periods of time. However, when they chose to follow the thinking of the nations around them, instead of remaining a separate people, they lost God's favor and special blessings! It was then that they endured sufferings even more than the other nations (Is. 40:2). They had been given great privileges. Being infinite in holiness, God could not fellowship with them in their wickedness. He could not have them to represent Himself to the nations of the world. But His judgments have revealed His holy nature, and teach that *all* wickedness will be judged! We see that separation is required!

Our world is saturated with evil! The consequences are on every hand. People are in rebellion against the Source and Sustainer of their lives. Hence, they live under condemnation and must be judged (Rom. 1:18; 2:9, 16). Each person is responsible for the way he thinks. What he chooses and follows will determine his entire future. Each person needs *guidance* in finding his way, because he lives in a world that is loaded with temptations. It is easy to just "follow the crowd," but we are told that this leads to "destruction" (Matt. 7:13, 14). It is easy to follow our own judgment, but we are told: "Lean not unto your own understanding;" "trust in the Lord with all your heart;" "in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths." "Be not wise in your own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from

evil” (Prov. 3:5-7). We read in II Corinthians 10:18: “Not he that commends himself is approved, but *whom the Lord commends*” (emphasis added). Read also II Corinthians 1:8-10, and Jeremiah 17:5, 7-10, 13.

The importance of separation from the thinking of the world is shown to us in the calling of Abraham out from Ur of the Chaldees. We read:

Now the Lord had said unto Abraham: “Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father’s house, unto a land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. . . . in you all families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

Again we see the necessity of separation in Israel’s deliverance from captivity in Egypt. It was impossible for them to learn to know God and His way while living in Egypt! They were told to be separate from the nations, especially the people still living in the promised land. When they failed to do this, they were overcome by their enemies! The Christians in Corinth were told:

Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? What communion has light with darkness? . . . What part has he that believes with an infidel? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? You are the temple of the living God! He has said: “I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be separate. . . and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises. . . let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (II Cor. 6:14-7:1)

C.I. Scofield gives this explanation: “Separation in scripture is twofold: ‘from’ whatever is contrary to the mind of God; and ‘unto’ God Himself. The underlying

principle is that in a moral universe it is impossible for God to fully bless and use His children who are in compromise or complicity with evil. The unequal yoke is anything which unites a child of God and an unbeliever in a common purpose (Deut. 22:10). Separation from evil implies separation in desire, motive, and act from the world in the ethically bad sense of this present world-system. . . . Christ is the model. He was ‘holy, harmless, undefiled, and separated from sinners’ (Heb. 7:26).”

In finding our way or “working out our salvation” (Phil. 2:12), we need to seriously consider how the thinking of the world is coming into our minds; and then do whatever is necessary to prevent its continuing influence! In place of this influence, we can think on “whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report” (Phil. 4:8) and occupy our minds with the wonderful works of God and His wonderful words! The following verses are typical of the thoughts that are revealed to us in the Bible. Take time to read and meditate on what is said:

Psalm 1:1-2; 111:2-4; 113:3, 6

Psalm 119:18, 37, 97-104, 113, 120, 165

Psalm 123:2; 127:1; 130:6; 131:2

Psalm 139:14-16, 23, 24

Psalm 145:3, 5, 8-16, 18, 20

Psalm 148:11-13; 149:4; 150:6

Jeremiah 17:9-10; 29:13

Isaiah 30:2, 5

One of the longest chapters in the Bible is about the word of God (Psalm 119). The whole Bible is the word of God. Its central message reveals His work in providing for mankind’s greatest need — a savior! Jesus is the greatest expression of God’s thoughts! To know and follow the words of Christ results in peace, joy, protection, fellowship with God and himself, and a secure hope of life immortal in God’s kingdom.

We not only need him as our savior from the consequences of sin, but we need his ministry of intercession on our behalf (Heb. 4:14-16; 5:5-9; 7:24-25; 9:24). How thankful we should be to have not only one who gave his life for us, but one whose prayers for us are always answered! Equally wonderful is the fact that we have him to be “the way” that we need. We read in Isaiah 53:6: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Sheep need a shepherd. Without the right kind of shepherd, they can easily be led astray. We need a shepherd that can lead people in God’s way! The great purpose of God, since the beginning of time, has been to give mankind a leader who lived in His way. He needed a person who was totally teachable and obedient. Jesus lived out God’s way completely — God was his Father and everything about him was *of* his Father! We read: “He whom God has sent speaks the words of God: for God gives not the spirit by measure to him” (John 3:34). Jesus said: “The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwells in me, He does the works” (John 14:10). He could truthfully say: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father but by me” (John 14:6). He also said: “He that has my commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves me: and he that loves me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and manifest myself unto him. . . . If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:21, 23). Jesus is teaching that when we really believe, obey, and love him, he will reconcile us with God; and in this new relationship, find the wonderful life and hope that he had! He is the way! By means of him, God opens up His way to us!

Among the many prophecies that foretold the nature of Christ’s life are David’s words in Psalm 22 and Isaiah’s words in Isaiah 53. They revealed the terrible suffering of Christ in his death centuries before it took place! We are told that he would bear the judgment of men’s sins and make “intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12). While enduring the hours of extreme pain while hanging on the cross, in agony he prayed for men’s forgiveness! Later we are told that *he “was heard in that he feared”* (Heb. 5:7, emphasis added). Hebrews 7:25 says: “Wherefore *he is able* to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by

him, seeing that he ever lives to make intercession for them” (emphasis added).
He lives today and enables us to find God’s way, if that is what we want!