

# **“Make Me to Know Your Ways, O Lord”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Psalm 25:1-15
  - 1. From youth, David had a heart for God like few others - Acts 13:22
  - 2. This text was written by David after he had matured.
- B. None of us are who we once were or who we will soon become.
  - 1. We have made decisions in the past we deeply regret; David did - vs 7
  - 2. Though effective, experience is also the most expensive of all tutors, and it can only teach willing students
  - 3. Therefore, David prayed that God would teach him His ways - vs. 4-5
- C. Trusting our own ways often leads to pain and regret - Prov. 14:12; Jer. 17:9
  - 1. Matt. 7:21-23

## **I. DO WE REALLY WANT TO KNOW GOD’S WAYS?**

- A. When we pray that God will teach us, we must make sure we are teachable
  - Twelve questions to ask ourselves to determine how teachable we are:
    - 1. Am I more willing to listen than to talk?
    - 2. Am I willing to admit when I am mistaken?
    - 3. Do I observe before acting on a situation?
    - 4. Am I willing to agree to disagree?
    - 5. Do I desire information more than answers? (Think for myself?)
    - 6. Am I humble enough to ask questions?
    - 7. Am I open to suggestions and new ideas?
    - 8. Do I feel comfortable asking for advice or directions?
    - 9. Am I a patient and willing student?
    - 10. Do I enjoy reading for information that is both practical and applicable?
    - 11. Do I seek out new perspectives on the questions of life?
    - 12. Can I appreciate criticism without becoming deeply wounded?
- B. Those who would be taught, must thirst for the word of God.
  - 1. Matt. 5:6; 1Peter 2:2; Psalm 119: 97, 127, 148

## **II. SOME HAVE TRULY WANTED TO KNOW GOD’S WORD**

- A. There was a time when men were willing to give their lives for the word. In history, some church leaders tried to keep the Bible out of the hands of people. Few common people could read and write. Copies of the scriptures were very expensive. Those who did not know the word couldn’t object to false teaching.
- B. In 1384, British theologian, John Wycliffe, translated the Bible into English. Catholic leaders tried to destroy his work, but copies were made. He was so despised, that 44 years later, the pope ordered his bones were dug up, burned, ground to powder and the ashes thrown into the River Swift. In spite of Papal wrath, Wycliffe lit a fire that sparked the Protestant Reformation. Luther, Zwingli and Tyndale aggressively challenged men to study the Bible.
- C. A Catholic clergyman once taunted Tyndale: “We are better to be without God’s laws than the Pope’s.” Tyndale was infuriated by this heresy, and

- replied, "I defy the Pope and all his laws. If God spare my life ere many years, I will cause the boy that drives the plow to know more scripture than you!"
- D. Tyndale translated the Bible into English and smuggled Bibles for 11 years, but he was betrayed by a friend and arrested. He was later strangled in a German prison and his body burned. His final prayer was, "Lord, open the eyes of the King of England." Three years later his prayer was answered when Henry VIII hired Miles Coverdale to translate the Bible into English.
  - E. There was a time when men loved the word of God so much that they were willing to die for it. They would sacrifice all to get it into the hands of lost souls.

### **III. TODAY, FEW SEEM TO WANT TO KNOW GOD'S WAYS**

- A. We live in a time when the love of God's word is in decline. The Bible is more available to more people than at any time in history, but this has not increased the reading, believing, and following of the will of God.
  - 1. Humankind seems to have lost the thirst for living water - John 4:13-14
- B. Barna Institute study of self-described Christians:
  - 1. Only 15% of self-described "Christians" read the Bible daily.
  - 2. Only 32% said they only read it 2 or 3 times weekly.
  - 3. 43% admitted they do not read it at all.
- C. The scriptures urge us to fill ourselves with the word of God.
  - 1. Col. 3:16; Rom. 10:17

### **IV. GOD USES MANY WAYS TO TEACH HIS WAYS**

- A. God's Word is His primary teaching tool - 2Tim. 3:15-17; Rom 15:14
- B. God teaches us through Providence. Like manna given to Israel, what God provides us teaches us of His love, diligent care, and power. He has a hand in the events of our lives, He presents opportunities to challenge us, He provides trials to refine and mature us, He watches over us. All of this is instructive
- C. God's creation teaches of His ways - Psalm 19:1-4; Rom. 1:20
- D. God's design of our bodies teaches us of His ways - Psalm 139:14
- E. Our spirit must be that of David's - Psalm 119:148

#### **God's Book, The Bible**

This book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy; its precepts are binding; its histories are true; and, its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise; believe it to be saved; and, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to sustain you and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass and the Christian's character. In it paradise is opened, Heaven is opened, and the gates of Hell are disclosed. Christ is its grand subject; our good is its design and the glory of God is its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to the resurrection, to life in Christ, yes, to glory itself for eternity. (Unknown Author)