

From a Child Thou Hast Known the Holy Scriptures

The Apostle Paul wrote these words to young Timothy: "That from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim. 3:15-17)

There is a Finnish saying: He who learns while he is young will also know it when he is old. It is extremely important to learn the Holy Bible when one is young. Then one's memory is good and alert. One is able to remember much more easily in youth than at an older age. The time to study God's Word is when you are young.

Dear young people, may you take this advice and instruction very seriously, for we now live in the time of the world which is very evil. Morals of men are trampled under the feet of men. People live in the freedom of the flesh, disregarding and dishonoring God's holy Word. The fear of God is disappearing from their minds and hearts. They fulfil the lusts of their carnal mind in all manner of sin, hardening their hearts and consciences to sin, and loosing all feeling of guilt. It is a very dangerous condition of soul when sin does not bother any more. Of such the Apostle Paul has written: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind." (Rom. 1:28)

In the reading of God's Word we can always find correct advice from the Word to battle against the enemy of our souls. When the Lord Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness and the devil asked Jesus to make a stone into bread, Jesus battled against the devil with the words of God. He said, "It is written, that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." (Luke 4:4)

Dear brothers and sisters, it is so important for us to know the Scriptures, for the devil is as a roaring lion walking about, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8) God's Word is the voice of God from heaven. The Apostle Peter wrote: "And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of men: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:18-21)

Throughout all times God has preserved His holy Word in the world in the hearts of His own dear children. In the first world before the flood, the Word of God was passed from one generation to the other through the believing elders as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Even after the flood, the Word was preserved by God in the family of the believers. It is that Word that God has spoken from the beginning of time, when this world was created. Everything that is in the world is created by the power of the Word, for in the beginning God said, "Let there be light: and there was light." (Gen. 1:3) The Apostle John writes: "In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All

things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." (John 1:1-4).

In the Old Testament time the written word of the Scriptures was first written by Moses. These are the five books of Moses, also called Pentateuch. The books of the Old Testament were originally written in Hebrew. The word testament means 'covenant.' In the Old Testament we read of the covenant that God made with Abraham and his seed, and in the New Testament it speaks of the covenant which God made to all the people through His Son Jesus Christ.

Dear young people and older ones also, it surely pays to read and know the Scriptures. Do not let your Bible gather dust on the shelf but read it always when you have a spare moment. Then you will be grounded and rooted in the Holy Word of God. You will not be "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." (Eph. 4:14)

In the Psalms it is written, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Also, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy Word. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Ps. 119:105, 9, 11)

Dear boys and girls, if you would read one chapter every night when you go to bed, you would have read the New Testament by September 20. In my own life I have experienced that when I was in the Army during the Second World War, I had a pocket size New Testament with me all the time. In the evenings and in my spare time I had a habit of reading the New Testament when the other soldiers were playing cards. Later in my life it has been a great help to have the knowledge of the Scriptures.

So my sincere advice to you is to read the Scriptures. It will "make thee wise unto salvation" as the Apostle wrote to young Timothy. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." (Rev. 1:3)

Elmer H. Alajoki
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