

Nobody wishes to miss a good thing. Many regrets are because of missed opportunities. Untold treasures are being missed and lost today because of a closed Bible. It is just ignorant neglect. Many good Christians are choosing lesser blessings when they might just as well have the greater. They are poor spiritually by choice.

Take, for example, Col. 3:4. Have you taken that for your hope? Some day the Lord will appear. But where? In Glory. The word for "appear" is PHANEROO. According to the Lexicon it means, "to make manifest, make apparent, show forth." The Lord Jesus Christ is sharing His Father's throne now. Some day He will receive many crowns and will reign over the heavens and the earth. This appearing in glory is the great coronation. But notice the verse again. "Then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." What a wonderful time that will be! Will you be there?

I was a Christian for a long time before I came to know that my address, my place of citizenship, was in heaven (Phil. 3:20). I did not know, either, that I was a saint. In fact, I had a very different opinion of myself when I looked into the Word and found how short I came of what constituted a real Christian. But I found that in Christ Jesus I was a saint, just as are all believers.

As I studied the Bible, I became aware of the fact that I was in some degree puzzled by many questions which I could not answer. I wondered why the church during the period covered by the book of Acts was so different from the church today. Why did we no longer have gifts of tongues and healing? Why couldn't we raise people from the dead? Why do we no longer observe the Pass-over as they did? Why do Gentiles now take part in the church services and not then? Why were folks stricken dead when they lied in the assembly, and now even the preachers can get by with it and not be struck down? There are others too numerous to mention here. Can you think of any?

But when I finally realized that that church was to go thru the great tribulation and be caught up at the last trump, I saw that I had to find an answer. For how could the church of today be caught up at the last trump when the coronation spoken of above was to take place some time before? We couldn't be caught up when we had already been caught up some time before. But, as is the rule in the Word, the key hung at the door. The key was Acts 28:28. My trouble was that I just didn't realize that I was not a Jew. I was trying to steal the blessings of the Jews and was ignoring the wonderful truths that were written for us Gentiles by the Holy Spirit thru the apostle Paul. I had not been rightly dividing the Word of Truth and surely was a workman that needed to be ashamed. I only wish that there was some way by which I might correct some of the Bible teaching I did in those early years. May the Lord grant that I will not be disapproved as was Moses. He led Israel in the wilderness for forty years and yet did not get to enter the land. (No, he was not lost).

Now being a Christian is a whole lot more than just believing that there is a God in heaven and going to church once in a while. It is said in the Word that Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him as righteousness. But how can a person believe God if he does not know what God has said? It does not say that Abraham believed the preacher or the Bible teacher or some books somebody peddled to him, but he believed God. Do you know what God has said and believe Him?

There is just one way to find what God has said. That is to read and study His Word the Holy Scriptures. The apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said that he completed the Scriptures. I am not looking then for any other revelations of any kind written since Paul wrote his last epistle to Timothy. The Bible is all we need to find out what God has said. I hasten to add that it cannot be fully understood except by the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

To the real Christian the study of the Bible is a great joy. For it is the record that God has given of His dear Son. From the beginning to the end we find the Christ, sometimes hidden as in Esther, sometimes more clearly as in Isaiah. Matthew presents Him as the king of Israel, Mark presents Him as the servant of Jehovah, Luke presents Him as the Son of man, and John presents Him as the Son of God.

But the apostle Paul shows Him as the great Reconciliator of the nations which had been given up. So we then, who had been aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, have access thru Him to God. In this dispensation, we, on an equality with the Jew, make up the body of Christ (See Ephesians).

I have only hinted at some of the great truths that make our hearts rejoice. If you would like to study some of these things and have some of the great questions that have troubled you answered, we are arranging Bible classes to help you. Now I am teaching a large class in Bremen which was organized by Mr. A. O. Bowser. This month and next it is meeting on Monday nights at 211 West Dewey Street. There is a class in my home each Sunday afternoon at 2:30. See enclosed leaflet for the location. Watch the local papers for the topics. Please come, for we need your help to encourage the more timid. Other classes may be formed. Inquire about it.

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P.S. I am not connected with any church or organization of any kind. I do not question your race, political views or church membership. The body of Christ is not divided.

TRUTH FOR TODAY  
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