

# *Study! Study! Study !*

*“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.” Proverbs 25:2*

It is amazing to us how many people we have come in contact with who profess to be Born Again Christians, and yet when you quote to them a scripture, they don't know from what book of the Bible it came from or even if that book is in the New Testament or the Old. They just simply don't know! And many of these people have said “They have been saved for a long time.” As we waited patiently, and sometimes impatiently, for them to find the book and scripture we quoted from, it told us all we needed to know about that person. He or she was not reading the word, and it was time for them to take their Bible off the shelf, dust off the cobwebs, open the book, and start to read it daily. Isaiah 34:16 says “Seek ye out of the book of the Lord and read...” Also, Proverbs 15:28 says “the heart of the righteous studieth to answer...”

We are living in a time of great deception and the one true sign that would occur before the Rapture of the church would be the falling away from God's word (2 Thessalonians 2:3). The Bible also says in 2 Timothy 4:3-4, “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*” They have taken their eyes off of Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) and have put them on man! There is a different Jesus, a different gospel, and a different spirit going on out here in the world today (2 Corinthians 11:4). And how will we know if we're being deceived or not, if we don't study the word of God? The Bible says, the Christians of Berea “*were more noble than those in Thessalonica because they received the word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily to see whether those things were so*” (Acts 17:10-11). This is the only way to prevent from being “*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*” (Ephesians 4:14). And if there ever was a time where you have every wind of doctrine floating around out there, it's now – right now!

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 1:10 “*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*” And yet, every Sunday night at 8:30 p.m. on T.C.T. (Total Christian Television) there is a show called “Christ in Prophecy” hosted by Dr. David Reagan. It is a biblically sound show which we recommend, that definitely promotes a pre-tribulation rapture of the Church. But at 9:30 pm, only one hour later, a show comes on called “End of the Age” hosted by Irving Baxter. His doctrine is so biblically incorrect it's ridiculous. He states that the Church is going all the way through the great tribulation so be prepared to be martyred for Jesus Christ. Well, if you want to stay for the great tribulation, Irving, be our guest. Soon now the church is going home to be with the Lord and we will all wave to you from our mansions up in heaven (John 14:2-3). Irving, “*ye do err not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God*” (Matthew 22:29). The point being made here is that if you have the money to buy air time, TCT will allow anyone on their station even if they are spewing unsound and false doctrine that is removing the blessed hope (Titus 2:13) from the church. Where is their discernment, if they even have any? The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 “*Prove (test) all things; hold fast that which is good.*” Paul also said in Philippians 1:17 “*I am set for the defense of the gospel.*” People like Irving Baxter need to be exposed and avoided at all costs. Again, if study was made by the owners of TCT, they would know this man's doctrine is false. Obviously, they have no regard for the confusion that is being caused out there as long as they can make their money.

Recently (2-23-19), on a program called “Beyond Reality Radio”, a guest was on who wrote a book about the second coming of Jesus Christ. After being interviewed, a caller to the program asked if the rapture was pre-trib or post-trib? The guest answered that he didn't know. Well, if you don't know, then why are you writing a book? The problem today is that most Christians are not reading and studying their Bibles thoroughly. Therefore they don't have any spiritual discernment concerning the timing of the rapture of the church. If he had “*studied to show himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightfully dividing the word of truth*” (2 Timothy 2:15) he would have known that the Bible clearly shows a pre-trib rapture. There is no other way that the scriptures point otherwise.

For instance, during the church age, when a person gets saved (born again) they are sealed with the Holy Ghost in their hearts (2 Corinthians 1:22). But, when the 144 thousand Jewish evangelists are being sealed in Revelation 7:3,

they are being sealed in their foreheads. Why? Because the church of Jesus Christ is no longer on the planet, it's been raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) – that's why! This is just one of the 14 irrefutable proofs that we offered in a previous Bible study called "The Rapture – Our Great Escape" which was written a while back and can be viewed on our website – [www.herehecomes.com](http://www.herehecomes.com). If you're going to write a book on a subject, you should know the answers so as to comfort the church instead of scaring it with your indecisiveness (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

The study and the quoting of scripture for the most part has been used for the glory of God. But, there have been a few times when it has been used for just the opposite. The first time being when King Herod was approached by the wise men who came from the east after seeing the Lord's star asking "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" This troubled Herod and he gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people and demanded of them where should Christ be born? "And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." (Matthew 2:5-6). Then Herod, in a diabolical plot to kill Jesus, privately called the wise men and asked of them what time the star appeared? He then sent them to Bethlehem to search for the child and to bring him word when they found him so that he could go and worship him also, which he had no intention of doing. He saw the birth of this child as a threat to his throne, and using the scriptures attempted to eliminate this threat. This is the reason why when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men who didn't return back to him, he was exceedingly angry and sent soldiers to Bethlehem to slay all the children 2 years old and under (Matthew 2:1-9, 16).

Another time scripture was used for a negative purpose was when the devil actually quoted scripture in the temptation of Jesus when he was fasting for 40 days. The devil took him up into the holy city and set the Lord on a pinnacle of the temple and said unto the Lord, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." (Matthew 4:5-6). The devil was actually trying to use scripture against the Lord to make Him sin by tempting Him.

Finally, when the Pharisees were plotting to arrest and kill Jesus, they actually used scripture to justify their actions when they told Nicodemus, who was in opposition to them, to search and look, for out of Galilee arises no prophet (John 7:40-52). Again, they themselves searched the scriptures for negative reasons to justify what they were planning to do.

We are living in the last of the last days, and unlike in Daniels day, the words (the scriptures) are not closed up and sealed (Daniel 12:9). They are there for everyone to read and understand what God has planned for those living during this time. Daniel 12:10 says: "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." This means that if you study to show yourself approved, God will open up the scriptures to you and you will be able to comprehend the words of God through the power of the Holy Ghost.

So if you are reading this Bible study and are not saved, then our suggestion and plea to you is to search the scriptures, for in them you will have eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:39) who was crucified, died, was buried, and rose from the dead three days later (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). This was done for you! The punishment for yours and the world's sins was bought and paid for with His precious holy blood that He shed on the Cross (Acts 20:28). Salvation is a free gift, and we recommend that you take that gift NOW while there is still time (2 Corinthians 6:2).

And if you are saved, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" (Colossians 1:10). And how can we increase in the knowledge of God? Well, the answer is easy – Study, Study, and Study some more!

Amen

(All scripture references taken from the King James Bible)

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