

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

May 17, 2009

The Importance Of Application

To some, the mere act of opening God's Word can be very intimidating. In my Bible, Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 takes up 1708 pages. I'd imagine the words are around 8-10 font in size. That's a ton of material done in small font so that it will *only* take 1708 pages to fit it all in! It is not difficult to see how some Christians can view God's Word as being quite daunting. It is unfortunate that some allow the sheer volume of the Bible to become a hindrance to them. They allow it to scare them away from any serious, constant examination and thus assure their own spiritual growth will be stunted.

Other Christians have gotten far beyond the initial sense of helplessness at just how BIG God's Word is and have spent many years reading what He has told us in His Word. To them, many of the verses are very much like old friends. They have revisited certain verses so many times throughout their Christian lives that they know exactly where they are located on the pages of their worn, well-used Bible. These verses have become familiar to them for various reasons. Perhaps they find tremendous comfort in a verse. One of the verses that offers me tremendous comfort is Isaiah 49:15. **"Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you."** That God will never forget His children, no matter how difficult life may seem for them at a certain time, is such a comfort and I find myself turning to that verse often just to find comfort. Other verses provide encouragement, reminders, fortifiers, and much more. Most Christians have such verses marked in some way in their Bibles and their eyes are always drawn to those verses whenever they find themselves in that section of the Scripture.

Sometimes I wonder how it is that a Christian who knows their Bible so well can find themselves caught up in sin and alienating themselves from the Lord. Just last Wednesday afternoon I was told of a Christian who knows his Bible very well, taught several Bible classes, served in various ways in the church, and yet has been withdrawn from because he chose to run around with a woman he had no right to be with. When approached by the elders he claimed that he did not think that God wanted him to be lonely. He did not attempt to defend his position from Scripture in any way because he couldn't. Such a tragic turn of events is very sad.

Yet it does serve to thunder a reminder at us when it comes to how we spend our time in God's Word. While there is nothing wrong with turning to verses to find comfort and encouragement, many verses are designed for that very thing, we must remember that it is our responsibility to make *application* to what we read. This man knew much of God's words intellectually, and he could find most passages in a matter of moments, but he would not *apply* what he found there to himself.

Consider Matthew 11:28-30, one of those comforting and encouraging verses for all Christians, and what is actually taught in those verses. Nearly every Christian can quote these words. **"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden**

is light.” These are truly heartening words that speak of the peace and rest we can find in Jesus Christ! Yet there are at least four portions of this very short statement that point to individual responsibility on our part. How many times have you heard these verses discussed at length without a single thought given to personal responsibility? The thing is, we must be reading with a mind to apply before we can catch it.

Jesus said, **“Come to me.”** This obviously denotes action on our part. How do we come to Him? What steps must we take? What must I do to stay with Him once I’ve reached His side? Not only do those three words demand deeper thought, *they force deeper Bible study.* He went on to say, **“Take my yoke upon you.”** A yoke is a wooden frame placed upon the necks of oxen so that a farmer can lead them where he needs them to go. As it is used in Scripture, it refers to submission to authority. The obvious application is that I need to be willing to submit to the authority of Jesus Christ. How do I do this? He went on to say, **“And learn from me.”** Why must I learn from Him? What must I learn from Him? Where can I find this teaching? Finally, He said, **“My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”** From the perspective of what man imposes and Jesus bestows, His yoke is easy. However, this is not meant to say that the righteousness of the kingdom is not challenging. What challenges might I face? How am I to overcome these challenges? Suppose I choose not to accept Jesus’ yoke?

As we strive to make application in our own lives from every truth taught in God’s Word, we will find that it demands serious time spent considering each truth and that often we are forced to examine other verses to assure that we are making the proper application. That was God’s plan. The true Bible student is the one who applies the truths he finds therein to every aspect of his life. Every time we sit down to study our Bibles it ought to be a life changing event, or at least a life bettering one. Please think about these things.

In Need of Prayers	General Information
<p>Please remember Sister Kimberlin as she struggles with some health problems. It was great to see her out last Sunday.</p> <p>Sharon Tirey’s surgery was successful. They now await the results of various tests.</p> <p>Adam Daniels’ friend, Will Markem, continues to recover from his motorcycle accident.</p> <p>Kristy Kidd, Ron Tirey’s niece, is in the midst of a high-risk pregnancy and having some trouble.</p> <p>Kristen Osterling, friends of the Thompson’s, is having tests done on her unborn baby boy.</p> <p>Remember our members who are traveling.</p>	<p>The Summer Bible Study Series will be here before you know it (July 20th-24th). We need members who are willing to teach or to assist in the children’s classes. Classes will be held for ages toddler through pre-teen. If you are willing to volunteer we would very much appreciate it as we hope to have the teachers for each class in place soon. Please let David Collins know if you would be willing to teach. Thanks!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Peter and Judy McPherson 323 Lindan Ave. Peterborough, Ontario K9L 1KL Canada</p>

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