

February 16, 2014

Mostly Personal...

Loved Ones,

Recently, I heard about an elderly man whose only means of support was his social security check. As you might suspect, each month was a hand-to-mouth existence, and he had lived the past decade in poverty. One day, while cleaning out the attic in preparation for a move to his son's house, he found the family Bible he had received years earlier when his mother died. Opening it, he was amazed to find cash and bonds scattered throughout its pages. He counted over \$100,000 in cash and securities, hidden away by his old-fashioned mother who did not trust banks! Within his reach had been riches that he could have been enjoying all along!

I wonder how many times we've made the same mistake. The reason doesn't really matter. Maybe it's because we secretly doubted the power of Scripture or maybe we were just locked into bad habits. But whenever we face trouble, the Scripture seems to be the last place we look. Then, in a moment of nostalgia or divine providence, we turn to God's precious book and find there were treasures there beyond our wildest dreams!

Maybe you've made the same mistake as this gentleman, relegating the Bible to some vague connection to the past. But inside there are true treasures. A disclaimer: I'm not saying that if you go home and pull out the Bible that you'll find a wad of cash, but I can guarantee you will find something of great value. You will find that the riches of this book have been waiting for you all along.

Let me give a few suggestions that can make the Bible more powerful in your life:

1. Download [YOUVERSION](#) onto your tablet or smartphone. It provides some great reading plans, a great selection of

versions to choose from, and a verse of the day you can enjoy and share with others via text, facebook, twitter, or email.

2. Buy or download a One Year Devotional Bible. It's a challenge, but I believe every Christian would profit greatly by reading through the Bible every year.
3. For those who do not enjoy the printed page, there are some great audio Bibles to choose from. You can select your favorite version, get a dramatized reading, or listen to the Chronological Bible to hear the story of redemption in the proper order of events.
4. Pick up a copy of the Journeys devotional book based on the Psalms in the bookstore. Reading the Psalms monthly has changed my life!
5. Establish a systematic reading routine with your family and make it part of your daily devotional time.

Remember the words of King David who said there are only two types of people in the world – those who honor God's Word and those who don't!

Psalm 1 NIV

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take, or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

I love you,

Pastor Stephen