

Words of Truth

What If You Treated Your Bible Like...

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The Psalmist said: *“My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly”* (Psalms 119:167). The attitude displayed by the Psalmist must be the mindset of all Christians (Psalms 119:47-48, Psalms 119:97, Psalms 119:165, and II John 6). Yet, it would seem that there are many things supposed Christians place above their Bibles. This article is aiming to get us to think about where we place the word of God in level of importance in our daily lives.

If your house were burning down, what would you try to save? What do you take with you everywhere? If you have time to read, what book do you pick up? Do you spend more time finding the right dress or tie at a store than you do searching for a Bible that has the right print size, margins for notes, etc.? These questions should be penetrating. They should make us think. From here forward, read through the points of this article and please think beyond the examples that I will give. The points we shall briefly pass through really are just surface issues. Make your own applications, from the Scriptures, as we consider things that will help us identify how important our Bibles are to us.

Consider These Questions...

What if you treated your Bible like your house keys or automobile keys? We all realize that if we leave our homes without our keys we cannot get back in. Try getting in your car without keys. Well, you can't get into Heaven without the word of God either. It is the word of God that makes us clean (John 15:3). It is the word of God that makes us set apart (John 17:17). Salvation is revealed through the word of God (Titus 1:1-3). Without the word of God we would not be able to have obedient faith (Romans 10:17; cf. Hebrews 11:6). So, when we leave home without our Bibles we leave home without the key to eternal life (Acts 13:26 and Ephesians 6:17)! If we treated our Bibles like our house or automobile keys we'd know where that Bible is and we'd search diligently for it if we ever did misplace it.

What if you treated your Bible like your cell phone? Without your cell phone you know you cannot contact those important individuals you want to communicate with. Well, how can God communicate with you if you leave His word at home or in your car (Job 32:8 and II Timothy 3:15-17)? I know, we might need to call someone if we're having a bad day, need someone to talk to, etc. This is exactly why you should carry your Bible like you do that cell phone. God's word is more comforting than any words a person of this world could share (Psalms 119:50 and Romans 15:4). When we need advice, put that cell phone away and look to the real source of wisdom – God's word (Psalms 119:98-103, Proverbs 2:6-7, Proverbs 21:30, I Corinthians 2:13, and Colossians 3:16). Some people have “smart phones” (iPhone, Android, Blackberry, etc.). Some of us have data stored on those phones. Brethren, these “smart phones” have Bible applications available (<http://www.olivetree.com/>). Use that phone for something good. Have a Bible application so that when you carry your phone you have God's word too! Then, you will

have the convenience of being able to meditate upon the word of God anywhere you take that phone (Psalms 1:1-2). Just think, for those without Bible applications, what if you treated your Bible like your cell phone? You'd know where that Bible is, you'd open it often, you'd make sure it's protected, and you'd not leave home without it.

What if you treated your Bible like you treat your identification (driver's license, etc.)? The word of God gives us our identity. We are called through God's word (II Thessalonians 2:14). Our citizenship is in Heaven (Philippians 3:20). However, we cannot live aright on this earth to have that citizenship without conducting ourselves as instructed in the Gospel of Christ (Ephesians 4:1 and Colossians 1:10). In other words, we have no identity as God's people if we do not have God's word (Philippians 1:27). If you carried your Bible with you as you do your identification you'd be constantly reminded who you are and whom you belong to (John 5:39; cf. Colossians 3:17)!

What if you treated your Bible like you do your eyeglasses (if you have them)? Those of us who wear corrective lenses know that we cannot see without them. Can you see properly without God's word? Of course you cannot (Psalms 119:105). Without God's word we are spiritually blind (II Corinthians 4:3-4). Our spiritual vision cannot be correct without the Bible (Proverbs 6:23). If you treated your Bible like you do your glasses you'd never try to walk out the door without it.

What if you treated your Bible like you do your clothes? We must put on the whole armor of God, which includes the word of God (Ephesians 6:10-17). Folks, we are not properly dressed for spiritual battle without God's word. How can you give an answer without the truth in hand (I Peter 3:15)? How can you speak as the oracles of God (I Peter 4:11) without the standard at your side? If we treated our Bibles like our clothes we'd be ashamed when we're found undressed (cf. Revelation 16:15).

What if you treated your Bible like your valuable possessions? The Psalmist said: *"The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver... Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold"* (Psalms 119:72; 127). How valuable do you consider God's word? If you thought of the word of God as the most valuable thing in your home you'd certainly use it, protect it, carry it, and not leave it behind all of the time.

What if you treated your Bible like you treat a meal? Just as we need food to survive in the flesh, we need to consume the word of God to survive spiritually. Jesus said: *"And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God"* (Luke 4:4). The word of God should be the tastiest treat in our homes (Psalms 119:103, Proverbs 24:13-14, Jeremiah 15:16, and Hebrews 6:5). How much better would you treat your Bible if you loved it as much as your favorite food?

Conclusion

There are many more illustrations that could be used in this article to cause us to think about how we treat our Bibles. Take the time to think through how important you consider God's word. Do you spend time reading the Bible, committing it to memory, and applying the lessons therein? In conclusion, let's all have the desire God wanted to see in Joshua: *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success"* (Joshua 1:8).