

# PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path"  
Psalm 119:104*

January 17, 2016

## The Value of Bible Study

by Frank Himmel

Years ago I heard someone observe that we too often set aside what is actually more important for what seems more urgent. A ringing telephone illustrates the principle. To be sure, some folks have mastered ignoring telephone rings... to the point that it is hard to get hold of them! But for many, that ring (or notification) demands immediate attention. We will stop whatever we are doing (maybe even worship!) to see who is contacting us.

Is this perhaps one of the reasons we might let an entire day go by without opening a Bible? We know it's important, but there is so much else going on that calls for our attention. The morning routine is already rushed, days are full of work, evenings bring more work at home or activities elsewhere, and before we know it the day is done.

Take a moment to reflect on the value of Bible study. Surely you will agree it needs to be a part of your day.

*The sacred writings are able to give us the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15). That is a wisdom that comes from no other source, and it is the best kind of wisdom to have. Being knowledgeable about money or sports or movies or fishing or any*

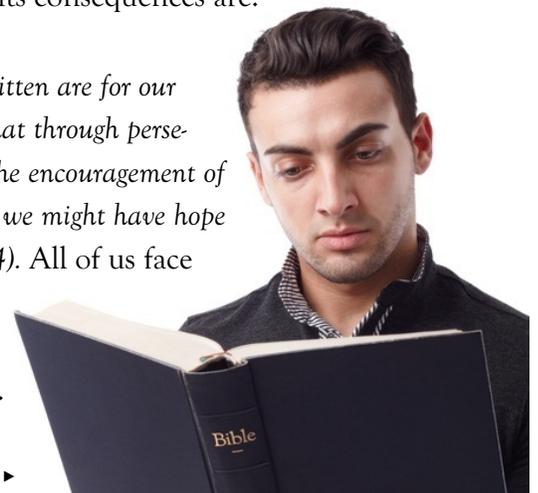
other worldly matter won't be worth a thing on judgment day!

*The Scriptures make us complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Moses told ancient Israel, "Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Deuteronomy 8:3). Without God's word we are woefully incomplete and ill-equipped for life.*

*Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). In our daily interaction with the world we encounter many influences that seek to undermine our faith. We must fortify it, and hearing God's word is the primary means of doing so.*

*Treasuring God's word in our hearts helps us not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11). It enables us to know what is and is not sinful. It helps us see through temptation. It reminds us how short-lived sin's pleasure is and how far-reaching its consequences are.*

*The things written are for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (Romans 15:4). All of us face discouragement from time to time. Bible study cheers us. It ▶*



reminds us of our hope. It comforts us with accounts of God’s people of old, seeing the struggles they faced and the outcome of their faith. It puts things back in perspective.

*Not knowing the Scriptures results in erroneous thinking (Matthew 22:29).* God’s thoughts are not man’s thoughts. We dare not assume that because we see something a certain way, He sees it that way. Men devise all sort of error. God’s word is truth (John 17:17), the truth that makes us free (John 8:21-32). *The word of God lives and abides forever (1 Peter 1:22-25).* Men’s judgments and philosophies are constantly changing. Yesterday’s wisdom is today’s folly. This simply proves how little we really know, how foolish we are apart from God. His word, in contrast, is constant. His plan works in all times and places. His way is best. Those who want to adapt the Bible to modern thinking have it just backwards; we must conform our thinking to His timeless revelation.

*The words of Jesus will judge us at the last day (John 12:48).* In school, we always wanted to know what would be on the final exam; what do we have to know to pass? To successfully pass through the judgment, we must know God’s will, His plan for our salvation, His requirements for our lives. The only place we can learn those things is the Bible. In the end, God’s approval, not man’s, is what matters.

Won’t you make a place for at least a little Bible study each day?



## Rest for Your Souls

by Frank Himmel

Jesus’ “great invitation” is well known: “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

It is ironic that Jesus spoke of taking His yoke and finding rest; after all, a yoke is placed on an ox to harness it to a load. *Yoke* and *rest* typically suggests opposite ideas. The truth is, however, that following Jesus – and that means obeying God’s commands – is a restful way of life, especially when contrasted to the burden of sin from which He delivers us. John observed, “His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3).

Jesus was not the first to link obedience to God and rest. Centuries earlier Jeremiah wrote, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls” (6:16). Godliness gives us a more restful way of life now and the promise of eternal rest to come.

### Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Josh Baucom	Carlos Garcia	Mark Clifton
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	John Baucom	Albert Harrison Sr
OPENING PRAYER	Paul Richmond	Don Rapp	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Clifton Lefort	Clifton Lefort	
CUP	Chad Brock	Chad Brock	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Josh Baucom		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Mark Clifton
CLOSING PRAYER	Chris Brooks	Josh Baucom	Justin Candella