



PathLights

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

April 3, 2016

Consider All the Bible Says

by Frank Himmel

Do you remember math class? We were taught that in multiplication the answer is called the product; in division it is called the quotient; in subtraction it is the remainder; in addition it is the sum.

Psalm 119:160 says, "The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting." The emphasis in this verse is on totality. Everything God says is right. Every one of His ordinances is binding. And the truth about any subject is determined by adding up all He says about it.

This principle of adding together all God's revelation is vital in Bible study. It is easy to err if one reaches a conclusion before weighing everything the Scripture says on a topic. Consider a few examples.

Some folks act as though Matthew 7:1 says everything there is to be said about judging: "Do not judge so that you will not be judged." They seem to think this verse prohibits any and all judgments that one might make about another. However, 1 Corinthians 5:12 requires churches to judge their members with reference to fellowship. Jesus Himself said, "Do not judge

according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (Jn. 7:24). The fact is, there are a number of situations in which we must assess one's character, position, or conduct.

If one reads Jesus' teaching about divorce only in Mark's (10:2-12) or Luke's (16:18) gospel, he would conclude that divorce is not allowable for any reason. Any remarriage following a divorce would constitute adultery. Matthew's account, however, reveals one exception: divorce for fornication (19:9).

1 Corinthians 11:23-34 tells us much about the Lord's Supper: the bread indicates Jesus' body and the cup indicates His blood; the supper is to be eaten in memory of Jesus; it must be distinguished from an ordinary meal; it is shared in an assembly of Christians; etc. This text, however, does not tell us what day we are to assemble. Acts 20:7 supplies that detail: on the first day of the week.

When the Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved, they replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Is that all there is to it? Many think so. But when the Jews on Pentecost asked Peter the same question, He answered, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38). Further reading in Acts 16 indicates that Paul went on to tell the jailor the same thing. Neither Acts 16:31 nor John 3:16 nor any other verse contains all that God says about salvation. The sum of God's word is truth.

$$1 + 2 + 3 = 6$$

Peace and Safety

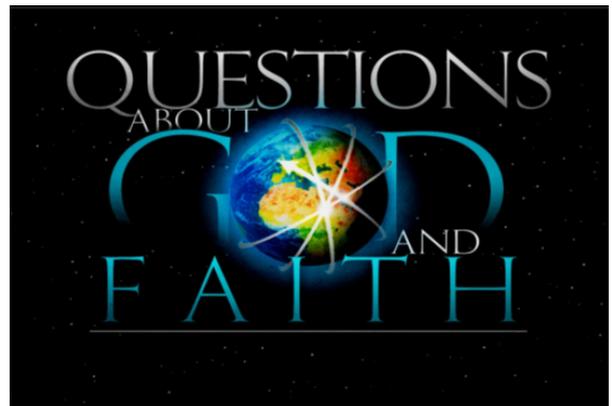
by Frank Himmel

Are you ready for Jesus' coming and the judgment? Many are not. The Bible warns that while the world is saying "peace and safety!" with reference to these events, destruction will suddenly come upon them (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

"Peace and safety" is obviously the conclusion of those who deny God and His word. One does not fear what he believes does not exist. Peter predicted that mockers would ridicule the idea of judgment, saying they see no evidence of a coming day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:3ff). Of course, denying truth does not change it.

Atheists and agnostics are not alone in crying "peace and safety." They are joined by those who have convinced themselves that God is too loving and merciful to condemn anyone, despite His plain warnings. "Behold then the kindness and severity of God" (Romans 11:22).

Then there are those who find "peace and safety" in self-righteousness. These are relying on good morals or humanitarian acts to see them through the judgment. Nothing is more plainly repudiated in the Bible than the notion that one can be saved by works (Ephesians 2:9; Titus 3:5).



Gospel Meeting
with
Joseph Casimier

April 10-13

Unfortunately, "peace and safety" is falsely felt by a good many religious folks as well. Many are under the influence of false teaching and have never obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:8). Some think one religion is as good as another. Some think faith alone is sufficient. Some who are in Christ rationalize away or simply ignore the Lord's standard of right conduct on certain points. Others satisfy themselves with only a minimal level of service.

Let each of us thoughtfully ask himself, "Am I ready?"

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Brian Wilson	Bruce Williams	Josh Baucom
SONG LEADER	Bruce Williams	Gary Hagler	Frank Himmel
OPENING PRAYER	Greg Winget	Brian Wilson	
LORD'S SUPPER			
BREAD	Chad Brock	Chad Brock	
CUP	Adam Gibson	Adam Gibson	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Kerry Gray		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	William Lefort
CLOSING PRAYER	Albert Harrison Sr	Lee Davenport	Adam Wilson