

Churches are Filled with People Who Despise God's Word!

Surely you are not one of those who despise God's Word, right? Before you answer this question, you need to know what the word "despise" means when it is used in the Bible. Many Christians think that to despise something means to hate it. So, it would never cross their minds to think that they despise God's Word. If they hated God's Word, why would they own multiple copies of it and carry one to church every Sunday? Therefore, in their minds, unbelievers are the ones who despise God's Word, not them. However, in the Bible, the word "despise" simply means "to take lightly." Based upon this definition, consider how it is possible for people to despise God's Word even though they might own many copies of the Bible and carry one to church every Sunday.

Anyone who is able to read but does not make a habit of reading his Bible each day despises God's Word. At the cost of the lives of many of His servants, God caused the Bible to be written and be preserved unto this day. Millions of people throughout the world do not have access to the Bible either because they can't afford one or it is not available in their own language. The fact that a person possesses several copies of the Bible but does not take the time to read it each day is a clear demonstration that he takes it lightly. He despises God's Word! He needs to acknowledge that he despises God's Word and recognize it as a sinful, ungrateful slap in God's face. If a person who owns a Bible goes through life without ever developing the simple habit of reading the Bible, he should seriously question whether he knows the Lord at all. Those who truly know the Lord hear His Words and they tremble at His Word! (See Isaiah 66:5.)

A failure to habitually read the Bible is evidence of a heart that despises God's Word. But what about the person who reads the Bible but fails to do what it says? Anyone who reads the Bible but does not obey it despises God's Word. (See Numbers 15:30-31.¹) If we despise God's Word, we despise God Himself since it is God who is the One speaking. There is a record of David, a believer, doing this very thing.

"Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife" (II Samuel 12:9-10).

As a matter of fact, we have all despised God's Word in this way during our lives both before and after we became Christians. Since that is true, does this imply that we can excuse ourselves by saying, "Everyone has done it?" The contrary is true. We must remember that God expects us to tremble at His Word, not take it lightly. We should take heed so that in the end, we don't prove ourselves to be chaff.

"Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff. So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 5:24).

God's message is clear. He gives us a choice and warns us to take this seriously. For the sake of our salvation, we simply must not only habitually read the Bible, but we must do what it says. The choice we make will be evident by our lives. Those who delight in His Word will flourish and those who take it lightly will be as the chaff, withered and eventually discarded in the furnace:

*"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But **his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither;** And whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish (Psalm 1:1-6).*

¹ *"The person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people. 'Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him'" (Numbers 15:30-31).*

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Take heed!

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall" (Matthew 7:21-27).

Thomas Bear, June 12, 2019

Οὐαὶ μοί ἐστιν ἂν μὴ εὐαγγελίζωμαι (Προς Κορινθίους Α 9:16)