

Bible Study: May 30, 2007

Glorifying the Father of all the earth...Through honoring the possibilities opened by books.

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INTRODUCTION

Quotes on the importance of books.

- *Any kid who has two parents who love him and a houseful of books isn't poor.* - Sam Levenson.
- *Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body* - Sir Richard Steele
- *The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.* - Mark Twain.

Do you think that the bible is the only book that God wants us to read or to be interested in?

1. God encourages us to read a variety of material.

Look at: Daniel 1:3-4, 17 1Kings 4:32-33

The knowledge acquired by the Hebrew boys and Solomon in these verses was a tool through which God carried out His purpose. Part of what helps us to be effective ministers is by understanding the world around us. (See also the bible description of Moses in Acts 7:22)

BUT...

2. God warns us/tells us to exhibit care about what and how we read.

Look at: Colossians 2:8

Even in gaining an understanding of the world through the possibilities of books, God in essence warns us, "Don't let anyone/anything steal you away!" The world and God are at two opposite ends of the spectrum. Don't try to be wise by the world's standards.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." – Proverbs 9:10 (NIV)

So can our exposure to material contained in books glorify God? Of course, but such an exposure has to be guided by God.

THEREFORE...

3. God wants us to develop a biblical mindset.

We do this by:

- a) Realize the _____ of our actions.
o c i t p n e a r m

Look at: Colossians 3:17.

Even the very books or material we read should bring glory to God.

- b) Make time to be in the Bible _____.
a y r r l u g l e

Look at: 2 Timothy 2:15.

We can't talk about glorifying God through books without talking about the bible. How can we be obedient if we don't know what God wants? How can we fight if we don't have the tools? Knowing what God wants is fundamental.

- c) Proactively choose your _____ of information.
s s e u o c r

If you are serious about developing a biblical mindset, then you need to be proactive about where you get your information. And sometimes that means disregarding or discarding information from other sources. If you don't decide who to listen to, then you have, by default, allowed the world to decide for you.

- d) Guard your _____ life.
h g u t o t h

Look at: St. Matthew 15:11

Notice the phrase, "*takes you captive*" in Colossians 2:8. Your thought life is the first conduit to either captivity or freedom. Guard it well.

- e) Use scripture verses as a _____.
l f r e i t

When you see or hear something, run it through the filter of Scripture to determine its worth or truthfulness. By being familiar with the Scriptures through your regular reading and meditation, you are able to use that filter effectively, and it will go a long way to helping you sort out the good from the bad, truth from error.

CONCLUSION

There is a big world out there that is worth exploring and the information contained in books awakes us to such possibilities. But even in this pursuit, we need to be subject to the direction of the Holy Spirit, because it is then that such actions glorify the Father.