

The Old Paths

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“All Things Desirable To Men ...”

Jarrod Jacobs

“All things desirable to men are contained in the Bible.” This is one of the many quotes of Abraham Lincoln. Certainly, this man understood something that the majority of people today do not. Anything desirable, anything worthy of imitation, anything pleasing to God will be found in the Bible, the word of God! Peter said that God “*hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness*” (II Pet. 1:3). If God has given us “all things,” then what do we lack? If He has given us “all things” then why are men so pressed to find life’s “necessities” somewhere else? Truly, “all things desirable to men are contained in the Bible.”

Within the pages of Inspiration, we find God’s instructions for life. The meaning of life is summed up thusly: “*Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man*” (Ecc. 12:13). God’s word instructs us to treat men as we would want them to treat us (Matt. 7:12). No one has ever improved on this! God declares that it is necessary to live at peace with all men. We are to “*follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another*” (Rom. 14:19). If people would just do this, we would have a much more peaceful exist-

tence upon this earth! God instructs us to speak to others in an edifying way, and to not tear one another down through malicious words and gossip (Eph. 4:29, 31). Husbands and wives are to submit themselves to one another and love one another, cleaving to each other, and forsaking all others (Eph. 5:22-33). For any relationship you wish to discuss, the Bible has the answer. It truly contains “all things desirable to men.”

The Bible also contains God’s plan for the salvation of mankind from sin. We see it unfolding from Genesis 3, and continue to take shape until the coming of Christ who died on the cross for us! The Bible teaches that Christ was “*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*” (Rev. 13:8). His blood was shed to purchase us and to take away our sin (I Pet. 1:18-19; Matt. 26:28; Jn. 1:29). God loved man so much that He allowed His Son to die on our behalf (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:6-9). Christ died for us, shed his blood, and resurrected on the third day, declaring Himself to be the Son of God with power (Rom. 1:4). The Holy Spirit was then sent to guide the apostles into “*all truth*” so that they could preach and teach the truth to all nations, which they did (II Pet. 1:20-21; Jn. 14:26, 15:26, 16:13; Col. 1:5-6, 23; Rom. 16:26).

Now, it is man’s responsibility to do that which is right and submit

himself to God’s will. He must believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Jn. 8:24), and repent of his sins (Lk. 13:3). He must then confess his faith in Christ (Matt. 10:32), and be baptized for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38). Upon doing these things, the Bible reveals that man is saved (Mk. 16:16). Notice please that man is not saved simply by “doing something.” Man is not saved on his own merit. Man is saved by hearing and doing the will of God. He has done nothing on his own by which to boast, but has simply done what Christ expected of Him (Lk. 17:10). He must then live a faithful life to God, doing the Lord’s will as His faithful servant (I Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10). The Bible teaches that when we submit to God, doing His will, and obeying His word, we become His servant or slave (Rom. 6:16-18). Still, this is a desirable position! What better place to be than in the loving care and mercy of a loving God whom you can now call your Father (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6)? What could be more “desirable” than this?

The Bible contains the wisdom, and power of God to salvation (Rom. 1:16). Why men continue to push God aside amazes me! Only in this Sacred Volume can we learn of God’s wisdom. God has revealed things to us that belong to us and our children forever (Deut. 29:29). When men refuse God’s word, they are refusing God’s wisdom!

They are also refusing God’s power to save, for the Bible says the gospel “*is the power of God unto salvation*” (Rom. 1:16). The Bible reveals our origins, it reveals our purpose for being here, and it reveals what shall become of us (the faithful AND unfaith-

ful) at the end of time. Jesus said that this book will be our standard of judgment on the Judgment Day (Jn. 12:48). Seeing that this is true, how foolish it is to cast this book aside as "antiquated," or "a book of myths," or anything else! The Bible is necessary, vital, and alive, and we better never forget that (Heb. 4:12)!!

Yes, "all things desirable to men are contained in the Bible." The question is: Will **YOU** accept or reject the Bible?

"The Bible"

The following is a short article concerning the Bible and its greatness. No author's name is given, but this article is found in a booklet compiled by bro. Luther Martin who died in 1997. I thought this author used very beautiful words to describe the Bible. Hopefully, this will make you think and thank God for His word.

Tribute To The Bible

"The Bible is the Grand Old Book of the World. It breathes with sympathy, it throbs with energy, it pulsates with power, it vibrates with heavenly harmony, it sparkles with beauty, it thunders with eloquence, it flashes with light divine, its veins run crimson with the warm blood of the Son of God, its breathes the fragrance of the Lily of the Valley and the Rose of Sharon."

"The God Of A New Start"

Jarrold Jacobs

As 2004 ends, and our thoughts turn to the possibilities of 2005, we realize that this is a time for a new start. In connection with this, Christians understand that God is the God of a new start! He provides folks the opportunity to be "*born again*" (Jn. 3:3, 5). Christ has died for us that we might have the remission of sins; to have that "clean slate," wherein "*all things are become new*" in Christ (II Cor. 5:17).

In truth, the Bible declares that it is God's nature to give man a "new start." For instance, Jacob was once a cheat (Gen. 27). Yet, with God, he got a new start, and was named "Israel" (Gen. 32:28). Moses was once a murderer who ran to a strange land (Ex. 2:15). Yet, God gave him a new start as the leader of His people (Ex. 3:10). Jonah once ran from his duties (Jonah 1). God, however, gave him a new start (Jonah 3). Peter denied Christ (Matt. 26:69-75), but he was also given a new start (Acts 2). Paul persecuted the people of God (Acts 7-8), but Christ pointed him in the right direction so his "new life" could begin (Acts 9:6).

Why not make your "new start" today? God wants you to do it!

"Tell Me Why"

Selected

☞ If a lawyer finds a flaw in a title to property and does not warn about it, he has not done his duty.

☞ If a sanitary engineer discovers conditions dangerous to health and fails to report them, he may be responsible for sickness and even death.

☞ If a doctor learns of a dangerous condition in our bodies and does not warn us to correct such, our blood may be on his hands.

☞ But, if a preacher sees a flaw in our title to a home in heaven and warns about it, if he discovers conditions dangerous to our spiritual body and reports it, if he discovers a diseased condition and warns us, many think he's meddling and finding fault. Furthermore, these spiritually ill, demand a change in the preaching or the preacher if the preaching does not change.

☞ Strange, isn't it? Tell me, why the change in attitude when the preacher does his duty (II Tim. 4:2)?

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