

חסידות

Chasidut meaning “pious”

God’s Word and Truth ... how do we apply it in our lives?

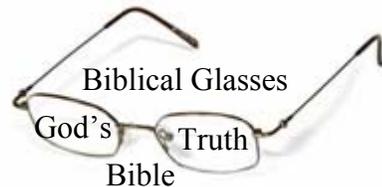
Part 2

By Duane D. Miller ¹

What is the utmost important reason for believers to daily study the Word of God? The primary reason is to **“Guard the Truth in our Hearts!”** The reason we want to guard the truth in our hearts is to fight “heresy”. Heresy according to Oxford’s Dictionary is a theological or religious opinion or doctrine maintained in opposition, or held to be contrary to the orthodox doctrine of the Christian church. The Greek word translated as heresy has several meanings in the New Testament. Heresy sometimes refers to a group or sect, and is the term used to speak of the “group” of the Sadducees and Pharisees (Acts 5:17; 15:5) in the book of Acts. But the New Testament also speaks of heresy in the more familiar sense, when it uses the word to describe the kind of false teaching that has a destructive impact on the church (Gal. 5:20; Titus 3:10; 2Peter 2:1). This second meaning will guide our study as we investigate important theological heresies.

Have you ever asked yourself whether you have believed in a theological heresy? Most of us would not like to think it’s possible to believe in a heretical doctrine but how do you know you currently do not? We should be careful not to use the term “heresy” by carelessly applying it to any view with which we disagree. This would obscure the very real danger that heresy poses to the church, however, it is of primary importance that we are able to spot a heretical doctrine when we hear one.

To prevent believing a heretical doctrine a believer needs to develop a Biblical World View by putting on “Biblical glasses.” This is achieved through reading the Word of God daily. In this day and age of post modernism and no absolutes we need a Biblical world view more than ever before.



Not only are our lives filled with problems as a result of sin but there are spiritual forces at work in this world which have one goal that is to destroy the authority of the Word of God (Bible). The most recent example of this is the movie released in May 2006 called “The da Vinci code.” The da Vinci code attacks the authority of the Word of God by calling into question whether Yeshua really is the son of God, and claiming Yeshua did not die upon the cross and have victory over death in bodily resurrection three days later. The number of theological inaccuracies and historical mistakes found in The da Vinci code has been addressed by others ^{2,3} and will not be addressed here, however the point I want to make is in knowing the differences by having a Biblical world view. Another example how Biblical truth is attacked are in movies such as “End of Days,” 1999 starring

Arnold Schwarzenegger and “The devils advocate,” 1997, starring Keanu Reeves. There are many theological inaccuracies in movies however, the following questions remain, (i) do we know scripture well enough to spot heretical doctrine, (ii) are we obtaining our theology from television and movies, (iii) are we obtaining our theology/beliefs from the Word of God were we should be.

If we begin to take our beliefs from movies and television we are most probably believing in a heretical doctrine.

Knowing the truth is a difficult thing, the world we live in claims (i) truth is relative, (ii) there are no absolutes, as well as (iii) television and movies portraying bad theology, one can very easily slip into questioning whether we can even trust the bible. God’s word should be our sole authority in all matters of life and in every area in which our life touches upon. The Word of God is a foundation with which we can build upon, it becomes to us like armour which can deflect the humanistic ideology which is so prevalent in today’s culture. With this in mind there is something I would like to point out about the Bible. The Bible (Word of God) does not give us the option to say “truth is relative.” The Bible claims exclusivity to the truth meaning God has revealed to us his absolute truth. So as believers we do not have the option of saying truth is relative. Let us examine a couple verses which demonstrate this exclusivity:

Proverbs 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. (KJV)

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (KJV)

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: (KJV)

Here are only three examples in scripture (there are a lot more) which demonstrate the exclusivity to truth which is claimed in the bible. The Bible is the only religious holy book that contains verifiable history. The Bible makes a number of factual claims, which are testable, and found to be self-consistent. The Bible also claims exclusivity to the Truth of God. All of these are reasons to believe God is a Holy, Righteous and Loving Creator God. Within the Bible God graciously teaches us what is best (Isaiah 48:17-18) but does not force us to do it.

God patiently presents what is right and good and allows us to make the right choices.

When God’s instructions seem difficult, we may conclude that God had exceptions in mind for our particular circumstance. However, no matter what the circumstance, God has given us his Word to help us realize the spiritual implications and its relationship

with this physical world. There is a struggle we all are involved in between the spirit and the flesh. Yeshua (Jesus) said the flesh is weak but the spirit is willing. (Matt26:41, Mar14:38) The only way to make the correct choices is by feeding the spirit with the Word of God. By feeding the spirit with the Word of God, we can offset the scales towards making the correct spiritual choices in our lives. As demonstrated in the book of Genesis (Adam and Eve and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) there is a close relationship between the spirit realm and the physical realm. When Adam sinned, by physically eating from the tree which was forbidden to do, Adam also died spiritually in separation from God. So, by feeding the spirit it is possible that we can also make the correct decisions in this life as pertaining to obedient living that is pleasing to the Lord.

In summary, by reading the Word of God daily we begin to build a foundation of truth enabling us to do the following:

- 1) Guard God's Truth in our hearts!
- 2) Recognize heretical doctrine and provide answers to those who have questions!
- 3) Know how to make the right spiritual decisions in our relationship with God!
- 4) Know how to make the right decisions to live our lives for Yeshua (Jesus)!

I would like to conclude by the following example. Have you ever offered someone advice which the person accepted graciously but in the end did not follow your advice? How disappointing it is when this happens, can you imagine how God feels when we ignore his advice found in the Bible? God is the only one with perfect knowledge and wisdom to know what is good for our lives. This is something we all agree with but yet so often we behave as if we know better. This was exactly the case in ancient Israel. Israel thought they knew better than God thus following their own way (2 Chronicles 36:15-16). As a result, Jerusalem and the House of God fell into the hands of the Babylonians.

**The only way to get hold of God's truth and applying
it to our lives is by getting God's word
into our hearts on a daily basis.**

Our lives are filled with problems as a result of sin and understandably we become "problem-centered." However, we need to be "Word of God-centered" and this takes practice. The only way to become Word of God-centered is to daily be in the Word of God. The easiest way to read the Bible daily is to get on a schedule which enables one to read through the Bible⁴ once a year. I am convinced that if we begin to study the Word of God we will not only grow closer in our relationship with him but we will also become what God would want us to be. As followers of Christ, and as a church, we count integrity as one of our core values. Let the way we live our lives be consistent with the Christ we proclaim.

Baruch HaShem

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Reference List

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4. Read the Bible in a Year in Email. <http://www.bibleinayear.org/> . 6-21-2006.