

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (Eph 1: 18).

It has been my privilege to have Bible studies with John Karmazinas and Pat Ryan over the past week. What a joy! It is always a good thing to study the Bible, but especially with people who have open minds and open hearts. I deeply appreciate the willing spirit of both of these brothers. May God richly bless them in their walk with the Lord.

An open heart is a blank check to God. When we allow Him to work in our lives without reservation there is no telling (or end) to what He can do! Too many times we want to serve God on our own terms, setting down the parameters that will define our commitment to the Almighty. Yet this kind of covenant is not acceptable to God.

My favorite OT verse is found in 2Chr. 7:14. It tells of Jehovah's great compassion and willingness to bless His people. Yet the decision is in their hands. Will they come to God on His terms of humbleness, prayer, and repentance? In other words, will they have an open heart?

Understanding the Bible is not necessarily difficult. Doing what it says can be difficult if we approach God's commands with the wrong kind of heart. John tells us that we can know that we love the children of God--when we keep His commandments and His commandments are not burdensome (see 1Jn. 5:2,3).

Therefore, who has an open heart? Who is ready to accept God on His terms and allow Him to exalt and bless? My prayer is that of the apostle Paul's in Eph. 1:18 (see above). I pray your heart will be opened and enlightened so that you may know....

See you Sunday! -gls