

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Kings 22:8,11-13,19,20.**
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (06-26-94).
- C. Josiah was eight years old when he became king (2Kgs. 22:1,2).
  - 1. Manasseh, the most wicked king of Judah, had reigned for 55 years and his wicked son Amon for 2 years. Their idolatry was a primary reason for the Babylonian captivity.
  - 2. In his 18th year, Josiah commanded that the temple be repaired, and restored because it had not been used for a considerable time.
  - 3. The book of the Law was found when cleaning the temple to make repairs.
  - 4. God took that covenant with Israel out of the way, nailing it to the cross that He might give the whole world the NT, the Law of Christ (Eph. 2: 14-18; Col. 2:13, 14).
- D. For most of the religious world today, the Bible is a lost book. It is lost in:
  - 1. Church tradition.
  - 2. Oral traditions and commentaries.
  - 3. Creeds and human traditions.
  - 4. Pleasure and materialism of the world.
  - 5. Neglect in the Home and Church

### I. THE BIBLE IS LOST IN CHURCH TRADITION.

- A. The Pharisees and some other sects of the Jews were so intent on following the Law, they invented many traditions by which they could use to insure they did not break any of the commandments.
- B. But they kept the traditions so well that they did not keep the Law.
- C. The example given is one is which one's parents could not be helped because of the money had been given to God, that is, corban (Mt. 15:1-9; Mk. 7:19-13).
- D. Many religious groups and cults continue to develop doctrines. Yet to add doctrine is to come under the curse of God (Gal. 1:6-9).
- E. To many people, the Bible, is a lost book.

### II. THE BIBLE IS LOST IN ORAL COMMENTARIES.

- A. By the time of X, the Jews had more respect for their traditions than for the Word of God.
  - 1. They decided that the X would be a conquering king on earth like David over the nation of fleshly Israel.
  - 2. They believed that all nations would convert to Judaism and that the Messiah would bless them in fleshly Israel.
  - 3. Therefore, they rejected a meek and lowly servant like Isaiah described in Isaiah 53.
- B. The Jews are still blinded today as Paul described in his day (2Cor. 3:14-16; Rom. 10:1-3).
- C. Jesus described their fate just before His crucifixion (Mt. 23:37-39).
  - 1. The first fulfillment of this was 40 years later when Jerusalem was destroyed.
  - 2. The final fulfillment will be at the day of judgment.
- D. To many people, the Bible, is a lost book.

### III. THE BIBLE IS LOST IN CREEDS AND TRADITION.

- A. Modern denominationalism is the result of the Reformation movement in Europe.
  - 1. Martin Luther was a Dominican Monk dedicated to Catholicism.
  - 2. He was disturbed by the selling of indulgences for the building of Peter's cathedral.
  - 3. Therefore, in 1517 he nailed 95 theses for debate on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany.

4. The word Protestant came from protests against corruption and Catholic doctrines.
- B. Today, much of the distinctive doctrines of denominations are teachings of Luther, Calvin or Roman Catholicism.
- C. The Scriptures are all that is needed for one to be pleasing to God (2Tim. 3:16,17; 2Pet. 1:3; Jude v3).
- D. Jesus prayed for unity through obedience to the truth (Jn. 17:20; 12:48; 1Cor. 1:10-13).

**IV. THE BIBLE IS LOST TO PLEASURE AND MATERIALISM IN THE WORLD.**

- A. The world's view is different from the Xian's.
  1. The Xian's motto is, "I'll take the world's conveniences, but give me Jesus."
  2. But the world's song is, "Give me the world, and Jesus when it's convenient."
- B. The immorality of our society is shown in movies, on TV, in magazines and newspapers.
  1. Even so-called "family programming" features dishonesty, disrespect, and indecency.
  2. "Soap operas" feature sex and deceit as major attractions.
  3. Sports glorify players who cheat and foul as a "part of the game."
  4. It is popular and "politically correct" to poke fun at Xianity, and the Bible.
- C. The world generally does not have time for the Bible, nor religion.
  1. It is regarded as ignorant superstition, "unscientific," illogical, and out of date.
  2. Yes, the greatest book in the world, the Bible, is lost in the world.

**V. THE BIBLE IS LOST IN FAMILIES AND CHURCHES.**

- A. "That old book that we all love so much" is no longer the Sears & Roebuck catalog--it more likely is the TV Guide.
  1. The Bible is still the number one selling book, but it is not the most practiced.
  2. It is no longer considered as the "Law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2), but a collection from which we take what we like and leave the rest.
- B. Every sin in the home is caused by disrespect for and disobedience to that book.
- C. Families who do not exalt the Bible in their homes cannot be expected to exalt it at church.
  1. Many are not interested in Bible classes because they are not interested in the Bible.
  2. They are not interested in reading it, much less in studying or discussing it.
- D. Yes, the Bible is a lost book for many today because they don't love it enough to study it.

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. We have time for and protect what we treasure.
- B. We will make sacrifice for things we consider valuable.
- C. We have a great advantage over those in Josiah's day--we know where God's book is.
- D. We will give an account for how we use it.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.