

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 10:12-17.**
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (1-1-95).
- C. I cannot emphasize enough, the study of God's word:
 - 1. The "Scriptures" that were preached by Jesus and the apostles were the OT writings.
 - 2. All of the NT writers cited OT scriptures or incidents to teach and warn w/the gospel.
 - 3. The OT commands were not given to us, but are examples of obedience and disobedience (1Cor. 10:1-13).
- D. In this lesson, we want to review the need and blessings of studying the word of God.

I. THE BIBLE IS OUR GUIDE TO HAPPINESS HERE AND HEREAFTER.

- A. God's word directs our path for our happiness (Psa. 119:105; Jer. 10:23; Psa. 1:1-2).
 - 1. True happiness and contentment is in doing what God says.
 - 2. God's grace teaches us how to have eternal salvation (Ti. 2:11-12).
- B. The Bible describes the sin in our lives that kills us.
 - 1. X died for our sins (Isa. 59:1-2), and His blood is the cure (Heb. 9:22).
 - 2. To receive the cure, we must repent or turn from the practice of sin (Lk. 13:3; 1Jn. 3:9).
- C. The Bible tells us how to apply the cure to our lives. When we walk according to the light of God's word, the blood of X will continue to cleanse us from all sin (1Jn. 1:7-10).

II. WE CANNOT BE SAVED IN IGNORANCE.

- A. We have to have instruction and constant guidance (Jn. 8:31-32).
 - 1. One can never be free from sin through ignorance or doing as he pleases.
 - 2. We must abide or stay in the teachings of X to have God (2Jn. 9).
- B. Man cannot change the teachings of the NT without ruining the gospel (Mt. 15:9).
- C. The HS was given to the apostles to guide them in the revealing of the gospel, confirming it by miracles and writing it for us.
 - 1. At the Last Supper, Jesus told the apostles that He would send the HS to them as a "Comforter" (KJV), "Helper" (NASV), and "Counselor" (NIV); (Jn. 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 13).
 - 2. On the day of Pentecost about 50 days later, the HS came upon the apostles and they spoke by inspiration in the native languages of the Jews from about 15 nations.
- D. Jesus emphasized the importance of His teachings w/the figure of "gates" or "roads."
See Mt. 7:13-14; Lk. 13:24.
 - 1. The way to heaven is as narrow as the truth of the gospel.
 - 2. The way to hell is as broad as the teachings and imaginations of men.
 - 3. X built one church, which is His body, and He is the head, and it is guided by the NT.
 - 4. Men have built hundreds of churches built on the customs, creeds and traditions of men.

III. THEREFORE, WE NEED TO STUDY THE BIBLE DEEPLY AND CONSTANTLY.

- A. Different people study at different levels and different speeds.
 - 1. Some read well and prefer to read, mark, make notes and cross-reference their Bibles.
 - 2. Some read well but are not familiar with names of peoples and places: They need to listen to the Bible read by one familiar with the names.
 - 3. Some read poorly and have trouble getting the sense when they read and would profit from listening to it read.
- B. It probably will not take as much time to read the NT or the whole Bible as you think.
 - 1. Some have time when doing something routine to listen to the Bible.

- a. It can be done while driving or doing housework.
 - b. The small portable cassette players w/headphones and a clip for the belt can give real enjoyment to long tedious jobs, and greatly increases your Bible knowledge.
- 2. It takes 18.5 hours to listen to the NT. It takes 54 hours to listen to the OT.
- 3. That means only 72.5 hours to listen to the whole Bible.
 - a. That is only 1.5 hr/wk to read the entire Bible through in a year.
 - b. That is less time than one ball game or movie a week.
- 4. To read the Bible through each six months:
 - a. It is only 10 pages in my Bible a day.
 - b. Five pages a day would cover my large study Bible in a year.
 - c. I highly recommend the *Narrated Bible in Chronological Order* by F. LaGard Smith (available only in the NIV).
 - d. I do recommend the use of tapes until you get familiar w/the names, esp. in OT.
- C. It is not expensive even if you do not have the tapes.
 - 1. Cassette tapes of the entire Bible are only \$30.00. They are also available on CD.
 - 2. The challenge will encourage us to do something we will enjoy, and want to do anyway.
 - 3. It is something that each one, from kindergarten up can enjoy and profit from.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We all know that we need to know more about God's word.
- B. We also know that we know more than we are putting into practice.
- C. The Lord invites us to come to Him for blessings/forgiveness (Mt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17).
- D. The Lord invites us to come because He loves us.
 - 1. Listen to God's word, "For faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).
 - 2. We must love Him enough to want to do what He says.
 - 3. We must trust Him enough to do whatever He says without question.
 - 4. As His newborn babe, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby (1Pet. 2:1-2).
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.