

Make a Difference!



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To make a difference, we make a commitment to live God's Truth—being a living witness of His divine plan. Following the *Word* is appreciating the *Gift* of salvation through faith in Christ—who was *born* to *die* so we could *live forever* with Him! The Word of God is a doctrine of Truth to anyone *willing* to believe and *ready* to live by its instructions.

The Words of God speak to anyone and everyone to guide them safely home. Micah 6:8 “*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*” Be honest in our dealings; be compassionate toward everyone; and be sure we are clothed in humility—never bringing attention to ourselves.

Every reading of the Bible is a *learning* session from God—His Son shows the *way*, and He gives the *truth* as He lived the *life*, He wants *us* to live. He has the *answers* to every question and the *solution* to every problem.

Some philosophers said of the apostle: Acts 17:18 “*What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.*” The *sacrifice* Jesus made for us and His *resurrection* to life by God, is the most important issue we could ever consider. If anyone does not know who Jesus is, they must waste no time in finding out before they leave this world.

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus sets Christianity apart from every other religion. The apostle said 1 Corinthians 15:14 “*If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*” Our faith in Christ must *never* be in vain—ever!

Some think that even if they do not really know who Jesus is or know anything about His sacrifice and resurrection to life, they are still okay—but that is not true. All the preaching the apostle and everyone else has done would be in vain if the resurrection of Christ did not happen. Every *life* would be in *vain* because everyone would die in their *sins*.

If Jesus did not die for us, life would be in vain—but it *did* happen; He *did* die in our place; and it *is* true—so if anyone will believe, they have a living hope of living forever in Heaven—God promises. Some in Athens Acts 17:19 “*Took [the apostle], and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?*”

The apostle was ready to follow 1 Peter 3:15 “*Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*” The Athenians said Acts 17:20 “*Thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.*”

Sin is not a *strange* thing to most people—we *know* when we have sinned. Our conscience tells us when we break the Commandments. No one should be caught by surprise on Judgment Day; and nothing will catch God by surprise on that day either! Hebrews 4:13 “*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do [give account].*”

The apostle Acts 17:22 “*Stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive*

that in all things ye are too superstitious. 23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.”

God must be a *known*, as everyone will stand before Him on Judgment Day. Acts 17:24 “*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.*”

God created *everything* and gave life to *everyone*—that foundational truth must be the *basis* of our life. The world hears all too many times that there is no God—that humans have evolved from a simple life-form—which is *not* true and would eventually *destroy* anyone who accepts that lie. The Book of Genesis lays the *foundation* for all Bible truth.

The God we worship Acts 17:26 “*Hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.*” It is God who gives us *life*, and *breath*, and all *things*—that is why we thank and praise His holy Name over and over, and why we are grateful for all that God has given.

Everyone is of *one blood*, so there should not be a *hint* of racism in anyone—we are all of the *human* race. Acts 17:27 “*God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being.*”

We can *make a difference* in some life while we wait for Christ's return from Heaven. Revelation 7:9 “*After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,*

stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; ¹⁰ And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.”

We can only imagine what that day will be like—standing before the throne of God with a huge number of people from every nation and language and culture! We were created to worship God—and if we do *not* worship Him, we will worship someone or something else! God is close by at all times—we just need to *repent, believe, and reach out* for Him.

Every four years, athletes chase gold, silver, or bronze medals. These Olympic athletes spend countless hours and literally their entire lifetime trying to get one of those coveted prizes. But all such medals will one day be left behind to gather dust, and *then what*—is the question. We should worship God—*now* in *this* life. Acts 17:30 “*In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.*”

God no longer overlooks deliberate ignorance, but He is commanding everyone to repent! Christianity is not an: *accept it or not* option—but is a very *serious* matter, and we will *live* it seriously—once we understand the *gravity* of eternity. Acts 17:31 “*Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*”

The apostle emphasized how vitally important the resurrection of Jesus really is. Since the Lord Jesus *rose* from the dead, we also can *rise* to a new life that *trusts* Him. Some think those who have passed on, no longer live—but everyone who has left this life is either *alive and well*; or *alive in Hell*. Daniel 12:2 “*Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,*

some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

Many mock the Truth of God’s Word; and they mock the idea of a resurrection, but *no one* will mock God and get away with it—Acts 17:32 “*And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.*” Galatians 6:7 “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*”

We live in a dangerous world today—there are wickedness, lies, and false teaching everywhere; from every direction; and from every imaginable source. If we do not live God’s *Truth* in this culture; if we do not walk a right *path* and set a right *example* for others to see and hear; if we do not *make a difference* in some life by *our* life, we would regret it for an eternity.

The *source* of God’s *Truth* has always been His *Word*. Every reading of Scripture is to be *cherished* and *valued* above any other *time* spent on any other *interest*. God has *taken* the time to write down a plan for us—He *wrote* that plan so we would *escape* the horrors that will come on a rebellious and unrepentant world. If He has taken the time to write that for *us*, we should take the time to read it for *Him*, and then with His help, live by those words.

2 Timothy 3:16 “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*” The Words of the Bible live *with* us and stay *within* us to guide us every day on the path of faith and trust.

It has been said that without the Bible, we would not have the divine help we need every day. *Without* the Bible we cannot succeed, but *with* it we cannot fail! The Bible is the best gift God has ever given the world. It is the only Book by which we may *know* the future with absolute certainty; it is the only Book that answers the

questions: *Where* did we come from; *Why* are we here; and *Where* are we going!

The apostle Paul gave excellent advice to his young helper in the ministry—2 Timothy 3:14 “*Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*”

A Bible on a shelf collecting dust does no one any good, but a Bible that is well-worn, read, studied, and obeyed is the kind God approves of. The living Word lives within us to *instruct* us; *guide* us; *correct* us; *encourage* us; *change* our attitudes; and *promise* eternal life—to all who will read, heed, and take to heart what is written therein.

Revelation 1:3 “*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*” Time is running out—if we are to *make a difference*, we first *make a change* in our attitude—asking God to give us His Spirit to influence those around us in a right and scriptural way. Romans 13:11 “*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*”



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