

## WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURE?

*Nicolas Edwards*

This question was asked by Paul who made his appeal to the Scriptures in Romans 4:3 and Galatians 4:30. Why is it important that we make our appeal to the Scriptures today?

**THE SCRIPTURES ARE INSPIRED OF GOD.** *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (2 Tim. 3:16).* As the word of God, it is truth (Jn. 17:17). It is able to save our soul (Jas. 1:21). Any spirit not of God is false (1 Jn. 4:1). Thus, we make our appeal to the Scriptures!

**THE SCRIPTURES ARE PROFITABLE.** *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).*

**TEACHING DONE IN THE BIBLE APPEALED TO SCRIPTURE.** Jesus appealed to the Scriptures (Mt. 21:42; Jn. 7:38). Peter appealed to the Scriptures (Acts 1:16; 2; 1 Pet. 2:6). Paul appealed to the Scriptures (Acts 17:2). Philip preached Jesus from the Scriptures (Acts 8:35). Apollos

was *“Mighty in the scriptures”* and shewed *“by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ”* (Acts 18:24-28). Today, teachers and preachers need to be mighty in the Scriptures, begin at the same Scripture, reason out of the Scriptures, shew by the Scriptures, appeal to the Scriptures! *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Pet. 4:11).*

**FAILURE TO KNOW THE SCRIPTURES CAUSES ME TO ERR.** Jesus said to the Sadducees, *“Ye do err; not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God”* (Mt. 22:29). It is vital that we are learned in the Scriptures so we do not twist them unto our own destruction (2 Pet. 3:16). The reason many are in error today is because they do not know the Scriptures!

**THE SCRIPTURES ARE ABLE TO MAKE US WISE UNTO SALVATION.** This is what Paul told Timothy: *“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”* (2 Tim. 3:15).

**THE SCRIPTURES TESTIFY OF CHRIST.** The Lord said, *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me”* (Jn. 5:39).

**THE SCRIPTURES TELL US WHAT IS SO AND WHAT IS NOT SO.** Those in Berea were more noble than those in Thessalonica *“In that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so”* (Acts 17:11). Truth and error is determined by whether or not it is of God. If not of God, it is error. We must try the spirits whether they are of God (1 Jn. 4:1, 6). We do this by searching the Scriptures! There is a lot of confusion, controversy, and error circulated today. How are we going to know what the truth is? Read and study (Eph. 3:4; 2 Tim. 2:15; Rev. 1:3)!

**THE SCRIPTURES CONTAIN OUR LAW.** James wrote, *“If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture...”* (Jas. 2:8). This is a reference to Leviticus 19:18. This establishes the principle that law is according to, contained in, or found in the Scriptures. The Scriptures reveal law. James emphasizes we are under, and must continue in, *“the perfect law of liberty”* (Jas. 1:25). This is the gospel, the words of Christ, and we will be judged by it (Rom. 2:16; Jn. 12:48; Jas. 2:12). We are under law, we must not break the law (1 Jn. 3:4). The Scriptures reveal the law we live by. Thus we ask, what saith the Scripture?

## THEY BURNED THEIR BOOKS

John Edwards

The exposure of exorcists in the nineteenth chapter of Acts caused many to renounce sorcery. Verse 19 reports, *“Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.”* The fact that they burned their books before all says several things.

**THEY ABHORRED EVIL.** The practices in which they were involved were condemned by God (Dt. 18:9-14; Gal. 5:20). Through such practices, King Manasseh *“wrought much evil in the sight of the Lord”* (2 Chr. 33:6). The appeal of the Lord through the prophets was, *“Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments”* (2 Ki. 17:13). Those in Acts 19 were turning from their evil ways to keep the commandments of the Lord! Their consciences had been awakened to the evil of those practices in which their books instructed them. We are to hate (Ps. 97:10; Prov. 8:13; Amos 5:14-15) and abhor (Ps. 36:4;

Rom. 12:9) evil. Unless one abhors evil, he will not separate himself from it! By burning their books, they were casting these evil practices away and saying, *“Get thee hence”* (Is. 30:22).

**THEY BURNED THE BRIDGE TO THEIR PAST.** When the children of Israel went out of Egypt and crossed the Red Sea, *“the waters returned”* (Ex. 14:28). Would this have made an impression upon you that there was no returning to Egypt? Some today build a bridge to Egypt by holding on to things that make it easy for them to go back to their sins. When they burned their books, they were steadfastly resolved never to make use of them again. They removed temptation to return to those past practices. Those who truly repent of sin will keep themselves as far as possible from it. We need to be determined not to turn back to sins of the past (2 Pet. 2:20-22). We have crucified and buried the old man (Rom. 6). Let's keep him in the grave.

**THEY PROTECTED OTHERS.** They didn't sell their books or give them away to others. Had they done so, whose hands would they have fallen in and what would they have done with them?

When they committed them to the flames, they posed no danger to others. Those recovered from sin ought to do all they can to keep others from falling into it.

**THEY DID WORKS MEET FOR REPENTANCE.** When the multitude came to be baptized of John, he said, *“Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance...”* (Lk. 3:8). It is written in Acts 26:20, *“...that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”* Repentance is shown by deeds. This public book burning demonstrated repentance. Acts 17:30 says, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.”*

Do you have any books that need to be burned? The Psalmist said, *“For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin”* (Ps. 38:18). Where there is contrition for sin, there is confession of sin. Paul penned, *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation...”* (2 Cor. 7:10). Where there is no godly sorrow, there will be no repentance. No repentance, no salvation. Let's make application to ourselves of when they burned their books.

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