

## Illumination

### Guidelines III

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~ Welcome back to the Spiritual Safari. In our previous report, we considered how the Bible is a man-book; but that it is also a God-book. Scripture was written by men expressing their own personal thoughts and feelings in such a way that they wrote down the Word of God through inspiration of the Spirit of God derived from personal experiences. The supernatural marvel of it is that God used these men without destroying their personalities; and by also allowing them to write down what was truly in their hearts and minds. The Spirit of God also inspired them in such a way that many of them wanted to investigate further the things they wrote about; but, none of them were permitted the luxury of doing that.

Moreover, throughout the sordid history of man - and even during very bleak times and circumstances - the Scripture writers wrote and produced God's Word without error. Moses made mistakes in his life - and he wrote about his mistakes - but there is no mistake in the writing *about* those mistakes. God gave the Pentateuch to Moses through revelation and when we read it and study it - and understand it properly, correctly and completely - then we receive an error free revelation from God. That revelation is called "illumination" - which is the title for this report. So, if we are to deal with the Bible on that basis, it will take more than the mental gymnastics that most of us have been taught in regard to the subject that is Christianity.

*1 Corinthians 2:7 .... we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him ~*

Now, let us pray: *Father in Heaven, open our hearts and minds to the truth you want us to hear; in Jesus Name we pray ~*

So, most of the knowledge that you and I receive comes through the ear-gate and the eye-gate. The rest comes by thinking and rationalizing. The human eye, according to the above passage, has not seen certain things. There are things the ear has not heard yet, either. There are certain things that man cannot even begin to comprehensively perceive irrespective of intellectual propensity, capacity or achievements.

Unfortunately, many have chosen this passage to read at a funeral. They say, “.... brother Doe didn’t know so much ‘ya know - but now he’s in Heaven and he has his thinking cap on. He knows things he didn’t know down here”. Well, I am sure that’s true and that we will all get a new degree up there and we will be better creatures at that time – but - that’s not what Paul meant! There are certain truth’s that simply cannot be learned by the natural human mind is what Paul is saying. Certain things cannot be learned by the conventional education system as we know it on earth. So, how do we learn those things down here?

*1 Corinthians 2: 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God ~*

You may recall Luke’s Gospel account of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. That day, Jesus walked down the road in Emmaus and joined Himself with a couple of brethren that were walking along, too. He asked them what it was that had engaged them in their conversation. In turn, they asked Him if He was a stranger because they were surprised that He would not have known what was happening there at the time. Even a traveler would surely have heard about the crucifixion of Christ. Notice they said He *WAS* a prophet – as far as they were concerned, He was gone and that was that – the end; even as He stood there talking to them! Of course, prophecy had been saying this for thousands of years and Christ Himself had predicted it, too; but these men acted as if they knew nothing at all about the death and resurrection of Christ. Verse twenty-one of Luke chapter twenty-four starts with a faint hope – but it quickly dies out. They went on to tell what they knew and what they had found out when they left Jerusalem. Not too many

people had apparently paid much attention to what the women had reported, by the way. Well, that was the point where their hopes dimmed and darkness entered into their hearts.

*Luke 24:19 ....and he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: 20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. 21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done....24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. 25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself....32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? ~*

I don't know about you, but I would have loved to have been there when Christ began expounding on all the Scriptures concerning Him. That would have been the ultimate human Bible lesson. Then, He finally made Himself known to the disciples as they sat eating. You see, it's when you are feeding on the Word of God – the Bread of Life – that God reveals Himself in all of His glory. We are studying God's book now, friends - and the Bible is altogether different from any other book. It's not a matter of simply believing in the inspiration of the Bible; because even with the inspired writings, I believe this is a closed book unless the Spirit of God opens it to your heart and mind. You can't open it intellectually on your own volition - and I sure can not open it for you. It can only be opened by asking for wisdom from the Holy Spirit in prayer - and by then actually studying the contents under a Spirit-filled and Spirit led Bible teacher in a systematic and structured manner. That is when the Holy Spirit will open your eyes and ears and make it all real to your heart. Alright, apparently Christ continued teaching at that time because when He returned to Jerusalem He appeared to His disciples.

*Luke 24: 44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me ~*

So, the words of Jesus Himself state that Moses wrote the Pentateuch. Christ said that every single one of the prophets had spoken concerning Him and Him only and that the Psalms pointed likewise to Him! Then, the most declarative statement - perhaps in the entire Bible – is made as Luke tells us that, “...then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures” – Luke chapter twenty-four. See, the Bible must be approached in sincere humility and by genuinely seeking Christ as our Savior. Otherwise, it’s just not going to be opened to you – it’s really that simple. I do not care how high your IQ is, you will not figure this all out in your mind through your own reasoning. Perhaps some of the young graduates from the world’s seminaries will take the time to read and view some of this safari someday. They already think they know it all - I know that - but they are utterly clueless! I went through that period, too. A year or two into my writing, I thought I had it all figured out. Now, I have discovered, as will you in this so-called safari, that there are one or two things I do not know.

*Luke 24: 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high ~*

*1 Corinthians 2:13 ...which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy (Spirit) Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned ~*

So, if you are going to witness for the Lord Jesus Christ then you are going to need a little help. In fact, you are going to need a whole lot of *love*. In

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other words, you must have a teacher to unlock the mysteries of God and enlighten your heart to the proper, correct and complete teaching of the Bible in spiritual discernment and understanding. I cannot overemphasize that enough, friends. See, I am never appalled or amazed when some man comes along and says he does not believe the Bible is the Word of God. Even many who once preached the Bible and studied it but have changed their minds about it is not discouraging or upsetting to me whatsoever – because those people never did believe it in the first place! Period. Full stop. That is what I expect from an unbeliever - unbelief. These men could not understand the Scripture anyway because it takes the Spirit of God to reveal them to us - and there is more meaning in Holy Writ than we shall ever get out of it.

Mark Twain made an interesting comment, and he was by no means a believer. Twain said, “....I am not disturbed by what I do not understand in the Bible. What worries me are the things that I do understand.” The unbeliever *CAN* understand many Biblical facts – but not the deep and profound spiritual tenets of truth and wisdom – and that’s *EXACTLY* what keeps so many lost people away from the Word of God.

Pascal said, “....*human knowledge must be understood to be loved; but divine knowledge must be loved to be understood*”. This is a very, very important point to get in our minds, by the way. We must have that *illumination* which only God can give to those upon whom He will have mercy and on those upon whom He will have compassion.

Robert Alfred Vaughn said, “....these unbelievers speak in their conceited rejection of the light without until they have turned into darkness their light within”. That is precisely what Paul means when he says they won’t receive the love of the truth and that God would let them believe a lie! The unbeliever may say some harsh things about us as believers - but only because God has already said some very harsh things about them in their unbelief!

Bishop Pauly said, “....the Bible is a corridor between two eternities down which walk the Christ of God. His invisible steps echo throughout the Old Testament; but we meet Him Face to face in the Throne Room of the New

Testament. It is through the crucified Christ alone – crucified for us – that I have found forgiveness of my sins and life eternal. The Old Testament is summed up in the word: Christ; the New Testament is summed up in the word: Jesus. The summary of the whole Bible is that Jesus is the Christ!”

Spurgeon said, “...I can never doubt the doctrine of plenary verbal inspiration since I so often see an actual practice of how the very Words of God have been pleased to use a plural instead of a singular to bless to the souls of men.”

These tremendous statements made by some very fine men of God are impossible for the unbeliever to simply “blot out” of their thinking. As a people, the wisdom of the ages has not really settled in us – even today. As a generation, we really have gotten the world into a hopelessly tangled mess. So, illumination means that God must take these words and make them real to us; but we have to be careful because merely *reading* the Bible can become a profitless pastime. It is a book that will curse you if the spiritual truth is not opened to your thinking, friends – and you can just write that down. The mere ethical teaching of the Bible would alone stamp it as the greatest literary treasure of mankind; but no one is going to read it for very long or study it with any real thoroughness if the Holy Spirit is not allowed to speak through it to their lives.

One of the saddest consequences of the Bible being taken away from the public school system was taking away the greatest literary treasure known to us. Subsequently, the world’s schools were flooded with filthy modern literature. The rational basis for the removal of the Bible from schools is that it contained stories that might soil the minds of young people. Well, children’s minds are rotting in the name of freedom, friends - which is nothing in the world but a lie. Why is it that when we talk about freedom of speech we really just want an excuse to talk, think, look, act and be dirty? – Well, that’s because man is totally depraved and, when he is given his freedom, that’s the direction he naturally wants to go.

John Milton - “...there are no songs comparable to the songs of Zion. No orations are equal to those of the prophets; and there are no politics such as those which the scriptures teach.”

Daniel Webster – “...if there be anything in my style or thoughts that is to be commended, it is because of my kind and loving parents for instilling in my mind an early love of the scriptures.”

*1 Corinthians 2:13 ...which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

Well, what about you today Christian parents; are you making a little Daniel Webster or a little terrorist? You'll be making one or the other – I assure you of that! Evidently, Webster thought his belief was attributable to his parents love for the Word of God. Paul says it is the Spirit of God Who is our Teacher. That is why I pray the Holy Spirit will lead you all the way through these reports that I have prepared just for you from word one to the word that ends this safari. If the Spirit of God doesn't teach me in order to teach you – we won't get very far in as much as the Bible is concerned. We're dealing in the supernatural now – in the only supernatural book known to man.

*John 6: 63 ....it is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life ~*

If you could cut the Words of God they would bleed. The words that Christ speaks unto us are spirit and truth - and they are *life*. The Spirit of God can make it all real to you – if you mean business with God. Jesus prayed, “...for I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me” – John chapter seventeen verse eight ~

*Exodus 20: “...and God spake all these words...” - Moses says God spoke all the Words that he wrote down. It is very difficult to reject the Bible today without imputing that it is an evil manuscript.*

*John 3: 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him*

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*is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God ~*

I speak very frankly throughout these safari reports, friends - and this is another one of those times I must be blunt. Jesus said that if you do not accept His Word then you are ALREADY condemned; if you choose to accept Him, and take Him at His Word, then are ye saved already. That means that you have accepted and received Him into your heart and as the Savior of the world. Now, in closing, I would like to make one or two final statements. First, the question arises to Simon Peter by the Lord, "What are men saying about Me"? – Well, the answer to that is *everything* you can imagine. We can get just about the same number of answers today as there are people to ask a question to concerning this. There are as many viewpoints regarding Jesus and the Bible today as there are stars in the night sky. Then, Christ asked the disciples, "Who do you say I am?" – and Simon Peter answered Him, probably for the group, and said, "You are the Christ". Then the Lord said, "Flesh and blood have not revealed this unto thee; but my Father, which is in Heaven". Again, only the Spirit of God can reveal the Word of God to you in its entire spiritual context; and He *will* reveal it to you if you invite Him into your heart. The Father taught Simon Peter and Christ opened up the understanding of the disciples before He departed from their physical presence and from this earth. We must wait for the promise because He is the only One who can make this thing real in our lives; and we are promised that the Spirit of God will be sent to us in the book of Luke and in the book of John.

*John 16:7 ...nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you....12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come ~*

So, we end this report reluctantly leaving the subject of illumination. I'll say it for the fifth time: only the Spirit of God can open your mind and your heart to this book. Only the Spirit of God can open this book to your heart

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and mind. It is all about Him! It is never about us in connection with wisdom and understanding. Trust Christ today as your Savior and Redeemer and a new realm of understanding and discernment will come to your life. Candidly, I not only feel weak and rather powerless in my attempt to convey all of this information over to you; but I know the Spirit of God can work where I cannot. He can move out to where you are at this moment – I can't. He can ride along with you in your car – I could but probably never will. He can be welcomed into your home and perhaps I will be that someday – but who knows? He is with you doing housework or eating your meals or in your place of business – wherever you might happen to be right now – so is He!

The Spirit of God can take these black and white words and make them come alive with vivid colors on the canvass of your life. Only He can incorporate them into your being and provide you the excitement and enthusiasm for life rarely understood by mankind. It is, perhaps, a good idea to take all the vitamin pills that we need, but the Spirit of God through the Word of God provides something that no man-made product can ever provide...spiritual health and eternal life. What follows from that is illumination, which is the teaching power of the Spirit of God.

Dr Robinson was the pastor in Laden and is the one who reminded the pilgrims as they set out from Holland: "The Lord has more truth yet to reveal through His Holy Word than is currently known to mankind" That statement still holds true today.

Luther and Calvin - These two men were great shining lights in their times; yet they penetrated not the whole council of God – not even close, really. "Be ready to receive whatever truth shall be made known unto you from the written Word of God." That is the real thrill of going through the Bible in its entirety as this Spiritual Safari does. Now, I am taking the next several years and doing just that – again - if God lets me live long enough to succeed. Quite candidly, something new breaks forth from almost every single paragraph of which I write; I believe this is going to be a most thrilling experience for me – and I hope it will be for you, too, because, after all, this safari is written just for you, my beloved. Just listen when that still, small

voice speaks to you from the pages of Holy Writ. God wants to talk to you and me – and He only does that in Scripture! ~

Until our next report, may God bring you His grace, peace and mercy ~

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