

“BACK TO THE BIBLE: READ, STUDY, AND OBEY” PSALM 119:11

PENNSYLVANIA STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
ON OCTOBER 21, 2011

INTRO: “BACK TO THE BIBLE: READ, STUDY, AND OBEY.” WHAT A THEME!
PSALM 119:11 – “*THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST THEE.*” WHAT A TEXT! In my opinion the combination of this theme and this text for this convention is TIMELY, PRACTICAL AND VERY MUCH NEEDED! Psalm 119:11 is a verse I learned as a child in Sunday School over 50 years ago at the Indian Creek Baptist Church in Mill Run and HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN IT! Perhaps many of you could share a similar story. And yet, there are many children and young people in PA who do not even know that verse exists. As we consider this theme and this text this evening let’s commit ourselves to the truth both convey without hesitation or compromise. In doing so we will not only benefit our lives for the glory of God, but also be a spiritual blessing to others in our communities, our churches and our Sunday Schools.

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WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME WHEN THE WORD OF GOD IS UNKNOWN BY MANY, AND UNDER AN ATTACK FROM ENEMIES OF THE GOSPEL LIKE NEVER BEFORE. IT HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE. Consider the following:

1) THE BIBLE HAD A GREAT IMPACT IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS.

-*THE NEW ENGLAND PRIMER:* This book was first published in 1690 and was used for more than 100 years. Most text books do not last that long! *THE PRIMER* taught the alphabet with rhyming couplets based on biblical events. *THE PRIMER* also taught “lessons for youth” which reflected the Puritan understanding of the Bible. It taught children how to read, write, and speak English as well as ethical and moral values from the Bible!

-*THE AMERICAN SPELLING BOOK:* This book was written by Noah Webster and taught the English language through Bible stories and passages with a strong religious component. For example, one statement in the book says, “**NO MAN MAY PUT OFF THE LAW OF GOD. MY JOY IS IN HIS LAW ALL THE DAY.**”

-*THE MCGUFFEY’S READERS:* This series of books was the most popular textbook of the 19th century and was UNAPOLOGICALLY BIBLICAL in its orientation. 1/3 of the content contained religious readings.

2) THE BIBLE HAD A SERIOUS IMPACT ON AMERICAN CULTURE.

This is seen in *Naming Babies, Naming Places, Familiar Expressions, Common Words, American Literature, American Poetry, and American Film.*

3) THE BIBLE IS CURRENTLY ON A DECLINE IN AMERICAN LIFE.

(Statistics from Gallop and Barna Research Organizations)

-Only 75% of adults know that Easter celebrates Christ’s Resurrection.

-Fewer than 50 % of adults can name the four Gospels by name.

-Only 33% of adults know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

-Only 12% of adults think the Bible should be interpreted literally.

OBSERVATION: In the 17th century they quoted the Bible; In the 18th century they quoted the classics; In the 19th century they quoted Shakespeare; In the 20th century they quoted each other; and In the 21st century we quote secularists. MOST PEOPLE TODAY DO NOT STUDY THE BIBLE SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO APPLY PSALM 119:11. ***WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE BIBLE!***

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A LOOK AT PSALM 119:11

I. THE PEOPLE OF THE TEXT

WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE TEXT?

A. The Human Author of the Psalm

1. We really don't know. Some common beliefs include Moses, a Jewish Priest, a Levite, Jeremiah.
2. The human author was committed to the Word of God.
Note verses: 9,10,12,13,14,15,16

B. The Historic Applicants of the Psalm

1. All True Believers...Old Testament and New Testament.
2. No True Believer is Exempt from this example.
 - a. It Certainly Applies to all leaders of Christian Education
 - b. Christian Educators are Obligated to lead others to apply the text.
 - 1) Exemplify the Text in personal living.
 - 2) Establish Opportunities for student application.
 - 3) Expect Obedience from your flock.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE PROCESS OF THE TEXT

HOW MUST WE APPROACH AND APPLY THE TEXT?

A. Recognize the Subject of the Text – THE WORD OF GOD!

1. It is Inspired – 2 Timothy 3:16a
2. It is Relative – 2 Timothy 3:16b
3. It is Effective – 2 Timothy 3:17

B. Respond to the Subject of the Text – TAKE IT TO HEART!

1. Read the Bible- To gather accumulated knowledge about the Bible.
2. Study the Bible- To make an earnest effort to understand the Bible.
3. Obey the Bible – To apply the Bible in daily living.

Consider: James 1:22-25.

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE PROSPECT OF THE TEXT

WHAT WILL RESULT WHEN THE TEXT IS APPLIED?

- A. There will be Spiritual Cleansing – Vs. 9
- B. There will be Spiritual Effectiveness – 1Thessalonians 2:13
- C. There will be Spiritual Blessing – James 1:25

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION:

Consider this warning: **AVOID APPROACHING THIS TEXT ACADEMICALLY BY CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING THREE STEP PROCESS.**

- 1) **THE INTELLECTUAL ASPECT – RECEIVE GOD’S WORD INTO OUR MIND.**
- 2) **THE EMOTIONAL ASPECT – MOVE GOD’S WORD INTO OUR HEART.**
- 3) **THE WILFULL ASPECT – ENGRAFT GOD’S WORD INTO OUR CHARACTER.**