

+ Underground Hope +

For in this Hope we were saved! - Romans 8:24

MISSION: To spread the truth and *gospel* of Jesus Christ in a world that has rejected and trampled on the hope of *salvation*. To show the *grace* of God which has been given to us on the cross of Calvary by our dear Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. To correct our brothers and sister in error, and to *end the heresies* that torment **Christianity**. All in the sweet name of *Jesus Christ*.

The Bible: *Two Verses a Day*, Will keep the **Devil** Away

Daily Application from the Big Cheese

In the last issue we talked about what the Bible is - how it is inerrant, infallible, and perfect because it is from God. Now it's time to use that perfect Book that has been given to us. God didn't have His servants write the Bible just for fun. Rather, He had a plan that went along with it. As Christians, we are supposed to use the Bible to guide us through everything we do every day of our lives.

God, the Big Cheese, has written up a tutorial - Christian Living 101 - however, you won't find this course taught in any public school or in any major university. You can only find this class in that big old dust bunny collection underneath your bed. The Big Cheese's tutorial, manual, help file is available for study every single day. In this issue we're going to talk about taking what you learn every Sunday and applying it to your every day lives. Often we talk about the Christian life in this newsletter; well this is another one of those issues because the Bible is our guide to that life.

Back to the Basics...

How does all the stuff in the Big Book apply to us today? What does it mean to us in 2002? Before we can take what the Bible says and apply it to our lives, we have to get some things straight. The majority of Christians believe that there are parts of the Bible that aren't God's perfect word. Believe it or not, there are people out there who mistakenly think that what **you** think about the Bible is just as good as what **I** think about the Bible.

Contrary to this common misunderstanding, it doesn't matter what **we** believe about the Bible. What *does* matter is what **God** says about it. Once you get into who believes what about the Bible, the authority becomes your **opinion**, your **ego**, rather than **God's** Word. The Bible uses some very powerful language in discussing the authority of scripture and people changing what it says. 1 Timothy 1:3-5 says, "...instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." The objective of teaching the Bible is "love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." When people deny God's authority in the Bible, they deny Jesus, as Jude 1:4 says. ("For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.")

Many people, in accordance with this common belief that my thoughts on the Bible are just as good as yours feel that the only thing people need to believe is the "basics" of Jesus. What, though, are the "basics" of Jesus if my beliefs of Jesus are different from yours? If you just go back to the "basics" and say Christianity is all about the "basics" of Jesus, without considering more intricate

aspects of His life that the Bible clearly teaches, Jesus could mean many different things.

Many consider Him no more than a prophet. Could a prophet save people from their sins? No. Others consider Him only divine but not human. How, then, did He live a life of perfection overcoming sin? (1 Timothy 1:17 - "Now to the King **eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**") The only solution that works is if Jesus is fully God and fully man. (John 20:30-31 - "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.") We can't comprehend this mystery of Jesus but that's what the Bible says, so we must take it in faith.

The reason theology is important is because it gives a basis of beliefs. Rather than saying "I believe in Jesus," using the word "Jesus" to refer to whatever you want, the Bible qualifies Jesus, it describes Jesus as the fully God, fully man, Son of God.

John 20:30-31 (quoted earlier in this article) explains why the miracles of Jesus were recorded - so we "may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." We don't have the Bible so we can debate it. It exists as one method by which God communicates His wonderful plan of grace through Jesus.

Too Old for 2002 - NOT!!!!

Another misconception about the Bible is the thought, "It's too old to apply to today." The opposite is actually quite true - the Bible applies to 2002 no less, if not more, than it did 2000 years ago. Read the descriptions of the "immoral" in the Bible. Those people were doing the same stuff that people do today.

We read in Galatians 5:19-21, "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

People today are still sinners - that hasn't changed. People still need Jesus today. People frequently excuse the Bible's importance today saying that it's too old. Well, over 2000 years ago, the Greeks came up with the Democratic system of government. Surprise, surprise...we use that **today!** ...What do you know...that's one of the best systems, if not the best, system of government around!

Just because something is old, it doesn't mean it's too old to for today. If that were the case, then why would I go visit grandma all the time? Her cookies are great and she also has a lot of helpful advice. *Especially with the girls!*

Have questions about Jesus, need answers and you're not sure where to look? We're willing to help you.

Feel free to contact us at: email@erichmusic.com and InsyderHomieLC@hotmail.com

May 15th, 2002 In the Year of our Lord

Christian ACTS—Power of Prayer

Applying Biblical concepts and trying to live the Christian life that we keep talking about revolves around Jesus Christ. Sometimes it seems like all *hell* can break lose, literally. Satan seems to be tempting us with everything and we want so badly to give in! It's part of the spiritual battle that goes on around us all the time. It's important to remember, though, that whenever we need God, He sends His spirit to assist us.

While we can't talk to God face to face, we **can** tell him how we are feeling. That is important to remember because prayer is our gateway to help. It's like a really cool 800 number with your best friend on the line.

Jesus teaches us how to pray in Matthew, Chapter 6 he says:

Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
(Matthew 6:9-13 NASB)

Jesus lays this out as a guide to prayer, a guide to applying His word to your life. When I pray I try to follow the form **Acts**.

Adoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Supplication

By using this manner we tell God how important and glorious He is (Adoration) we confess that we are sinful and that we need Him (Confession). We thank Him for all the blessings He has given us (Thanksgiving). Finally we make supplication, or requests to God, that he continues to be with us and strengthens us through our days.

Jesus is the light that shines, and we are to reflect Him to the world. We need every ounce of strength to do that. There isn't a boflex machine in the world that could prepare you for the plagues and diseases Satan will throw in your way.

It's spiritual warfare, baby, and you're at the front line! Guard yourself with the only thing we have, **GOD'S WORD**.

Question/Answer Issue

We are planning on making an issue that answers **your** questions about Christianity, the Bible, and doctrines about which you're unsure. Feel free to e-mail us at: InsyderHomieLC@hotmail.com or email@erichmusick.com or send us a question via snail mail at: Underground Hope; 527 Claremont Ave; West Chicago, IL 60185.

On the internet???

Do you need past issues of Underground Hope? Maybe you would just like to contact us and ask a question you can't seem to answer or maybe you would enjoy participating in the discussions on the forums. We are developing our web site into something you definitely **cannot** miss! Whatever it is you need and like, it can be found on our web site! The site is updated frequently, so stop by regularly. **Over the summer we will be switching to an electronic newsletter. Be sure to stop by our web site to sign up now!**

<http://undergroundhope.com>

Underground Hope—News!

We're still waiting for our responses from the churches to which we sent out the newsletter. We're praying for lots of churches to commit to our newsletter. Please pray for us too!

We've started planning out our next mailing too. Originally we were going to focus on Wheaton, however we have decided to broaden our horizons and finish off DuPage County. Our next mailing will be done at the beginning of summer and will be close to 400 churches. It should be a huge mailing, and we hope and pray for a large response.

As you know, this issue concludes a two-part newsletter on the Bible. We have big plans for our future issues. Future topics include: Answers to **YOUR** questions, Heaven, Choosing Life, Original Sin, and for our 10th issue, because it's so special, we will be planning a four page layout on "Christianity."

Erich has also been busily working on the web site, which is coming along great. Make sure you check it out! You can read past issues, participate in interesting discussions on the forums, and join our e-mail mailing list (in preparation for the summer, when we won't be printing any copies of *Underground Hope*). Check out our site at:

<http://undergroundhope.com>

Devotional—What does it mean to be perfect?

In math class we learn a lot of stuff, and often we ask, "How do I use this?" We ask this question with more than just *Math class*, though; we ask this question in almost everything we do. When we learn things, we can't just learn the rules, **we need to learn how to use them**.

Many of you open your Bibles and read them. Well, that's great, but *do you apply what you read?* If Jesus says "Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God." (*Matthew 5:34*) Does that mean you swear to people taking oaths and promising things other than Christ Jesus? The Bible, contrary to the beliefs of many believers as well as non-believers, is **not** just a collection of *stories* and *myths* that are pleasurable reading. **The Bible is a guide to life**.

People often complain that the Bible is too complicated to apply to their lives. I think that people just don't want to bother to take the time out to **try applying the Bible to their lives**. It is much easier to go to school every day, swear, talk about sex, and, after the bells rings smoke weed, than it is to say "no" and go in peace to have fellowship with your Brethren.

Christ never said following Him would be easy. *Luke 12:53* talks about division and persecution in families - between you and your brother, sister, and mother. In *Matthew 7:13*, Christ says it is a narrow door to him; it's not easy.

Just because the life isn't easy, though, doesn't mean we give up, cheap out, and live like the rest of the world. *John 15:18* reminds us that we are to be **in** this world, not **of** it. Sometimes that is very hard to do because we are frequently tempted to sin and, in many situations, it seems rewarding to do what everyone else is doing. Let me tell you a secret, though, **there is a much better reward for those who turn away from sin: Jesus**.

Next time you go and read your **Bible**, think about *the ways that you can apply what you are reading*, don't just shrug it off. Use it every day of your life, and **apply it just like Jesus did**. (Mark 1:13 NASB - "He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.")

Face it, we live in Sodom and Gomorrah. It's great to know that with Jesus we have a chance at resisting temptation.

Have questions about Jesus? Need answers and unsure where to look? We're willing to help you.

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