



LESSON 42

The Survivor's Guide

“Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obligated in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God . . . What a Utopia, what a paradise would this region be.”

JOHN ADAMS

Kirk's Comment

I love reading the Bible. It is without a doubt my favorite book to read and my survival guide for life—both this one and the one to come.

QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

“God couldn't forgive my sin.”

Those who think they are too sinful for God to accept them don't understand how merciful God is. The Bible says that He is “rich in mercy” (Ephesians 2:4). The Scriptures also tell us that “the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him” (Psalm 103:17). God was merciful to King David and forgave him when he committed adultery



ended with the heartbroken survivor hand-delivering the unopened package to its owner, the audience still not being privy to its contents.

Here's what the package may have contained: Novocain, a flare gun, a satellite cellular telephone, a blanket, a compass, a cave liner, an inflatable bed, a life preserver, waterproof matches, batteries, a first-aid kit, a solar-powered battery charger, a Swiss army knife, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a coconut- and crab-cracker.

Have you opened the package that God gave you in His Word? Or are you like the many who don't see the Bible as the ultimate Survivor's Guide? It contains all things necessary for godliness and tells us how to survive not only in this life, but also in the next. We are assured that "his divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue" (2 Peter 1:3). The Bible tells us how to hold on to faith and a good conscience, so that we don't shipwreck our faith (1 Timothy 1:19).

God's Word will also teach you how to be a fisher of men. It will even place in your hand the rod of the Law of God, to get the point across to sinners. There are two pieces of wood that two thousand years ago were joined together. They can start a fire in the coldest of hearts, and that fire will burn for eternity. The Bible tells us how to use faith to produce a joy that will carry us through life. It will teach us how to deal with the pains of everyday living, and how to have all our needs supplied in Christ. The psalmist exclaimed, "I rejoice at your word, as one that finds great spoil" (Psalm 119:162). The Scriptures are full of unspeakable riches.

The Word of God even provides us with the way to have a hotline to heaven so that if we find ourselves shipwrecked by life, there is deliverance through faith in Jesus who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Those who fail to open the wealth of God's Word are liable to fall into "many foolish and hurtful lusts" (1 Timothy 6:9). Let's feed on the Bible and heed the words of the apostle Paul, who said, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Corinthians 9:27).



QUESTIONS

- 1. List three “survival” techniques that you have learned through opening the Bible.**
- 2. What has God given us, according to 2 Peter 1:3?**
- 3. How can the Bible help us avoid shipwrecking our faith?**
- 4. Over what did the psalmist rejoice?**
- 5. What did Paul bring into subjection, and why did he do so?**
- 6. What do you think Paul meant by bringing his body into subjection?**



PREACHER'S PROGRESS

Christian: “Hi. How are you doing?”

Joe King: “Fine... I heard you talking about sin. I don't think God has any right to condemn us for lust.”

Christian: “Why is that?”

Joe King: “Because He made us like this.”

Christian: “You've got to be joking. Even though you were made by God, He still holds you responsible for your actions.”

Joe King: “That's not right. If a toy is faulty, you take it back to the manufacturer. It's his responsibility.”

Christian: “That would make sense if you were a toy. But you are a moral human being. You have a conscience that tells you when you do wrong.”

Joe King: “Well, I think that is wrong.”

Christian: “No criminal is going to be happy when the law catches him, and no judge in his right mind will fall for the old ‘God made me like this’ routine.”

Joe King: “I have prayed a number of times and don't feel that my prayers got past the ceiling.”

Christian: “They probably didn't. The Bible says that your sins make a separation between you and God so that He will not hear.”

Joe King: “Are you saying that God doesn't hear my prayers?”

Christian: “If you are in sin, the Book of Proverbs says that your prayers are an abomination to the Lord.”

Joe King: “So what does that mean?”

Christian: “It means that you need Jesus Christ to wash away your sin, because you are an enemy of God in your mind. Did you know that?”

Joe King: “I didn't know that.”



Memory Verse

“Your word is true from the beginning: and every one of your righteous judgments endures for ever.”

PSALM 119:160

Christian: “Did you know that the Bible teaches that God’s wrath abides on you?”

Joe King: “I didn’t know that either.”

Christian: “Joe, imagine if we had placed a microchip behind your ear a month ago, and everything you had thought about, all those unclean thoughts, had been recorded for everyone to see. Would you be ashamed?”

Joe King: “I sure would.”

Christian: “That’s what has happened. God made your mind. He sees what you think—all that lust that has gone on in your heart. Every word you have spoken has been heard by Him. Even the darkness is pure light to Him . . . and you will have to give an account for every idle word you have spoken. The Bible says that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.”

Joe King: “That’s heavy. What should I do?”

Christian: “You need to repent and trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.”

Last Words

Adoniram Judson (1788–1850), missionary to Burma, was privileged to see hundreds converted to Christ. Broken in health, he died while making a voyage to the Isle of Bourbon. Before he breathed his last, he said to those around him onboard the ship:

“I go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school, I feel so strong in Christ.”