

My Thoughts For Sunday, March 23rd 2014

“Hidden Truths of God's Word”

"At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." Matthew 11:25

In my recent reading of Martin Luther's, TABLE TALK, I came upon some very critical points pertaining to personal Bible study that I would share with you. Any direct quotations will be noted with paragraph number and will all be from his chapter 'On God's Word'.

First, let me reference the above s Scripture with a brief observation. To set the scene, Jesus was as usual teaching his followers, this time regarding all the woes that would befall the cities and peoples that rejected Him. Jesus then praised His Father for revealing His truths of Scripture to "children", those with humble faith and godly knowledge rather than the learned, spiritual leaders of that time. This was probably in part due to the fact that the spiritual leaders were very set in their ways and beliefs and that they were not willing to accept these truths from this stranger claiming to be the Son of God.

In Luther's words, *"We ought not to criticize, explain, or judge the Scriptures by our mere reason, but diligently, with prayer, meditate thereon, and seek their meaning."* **pp. IV** We have been taught from early in our journey, the necessary order of reading to understand the Holy Scriptures; the need for prayer and supplication to the Holy Spirit to direct our efforts, to the end that we might gain understanding.

As Martin Luther states, *"No greater mischief can happen to a Christian people, than to have God's Word taken from them, or falsified, so that they no longer have it pure and clear."* **pp.XII** It is truly sad that so many of our fellow believers are being led away from the pure Word by so-called religious leaders because they do not properly approach God for a clear, accurate understanding. Instead they rely on others to tell them what they enjoy listening to, even blatant falsehoods. We were warned of such men in [2 Corinthians 11:13](#) when Jesus spoke of the false apostles and deceitful workers offering themselves as apostles of Christ.

Let me include another direct quote form Luther, stressing a very possible and imminent danger. *"When we have God's Word pure and clear, then we think ourselves all right; we become negligent, and repose in a vain security; we no longer pay due heed, thinking it will always so remain; we do not watch and pray against the devil, who is ready to tear the Divine Word out of our hearts."* I am reminded of Peter's words written for us as a warning in 1 Peter 5:8, speaking of... *"the devil going around like a roaring lion, seeking to devour someone."*

As we continue in our daily studies, I pray we will all always keep in mind the gift that God has imparted to us by giving us the ability and means to gain His truths for our spiritual wellbeing. We must always seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us in our search in the Word to a glorified understanding. Then we may be included in the further gift stated in [Luke 24:45](#). *"Then He opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures."*

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