

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

The word 'application' may seem irrelevant to many of us as we go through life, but it has much more significance than we can imagine. Everything we know means absolutely nothing to us unless we are able to apply that knowledge to our lives. Now that your attention has been startled, it is a good time to proceed and enlighten your mind of the importance of application.

We live in a world that is governed by concepts: principles, laws, commandments, precepts, statutes and judgements. These will benefit us if they are applied correctly in our lives, but the majority of us are ignorant of these concepts. We usually apply some of these concepts unconsciously. For example, we all know that we have to eat and drink in order to sustain ourselves. On the other hand, if for some reason we go without food or drink for a long period of time, we will eventually die. The reason for death will be as a result of not applying the principle of eating and drinking.

Moreover, if we eat and drink more than it is required for our life style, which is putting more into our body than is necessary, we will gradually turn our bodies into a storage unit. If we continue to overdo the concept of eating and drinking, it will become uncontrollable which might lead to a premature death.

From the above example you can see the importance of knowledge of what we should be doing. However, the application of that knowledge has more bearing on our lives than the importance we attach on it. There is a limit to everything. The knowledge of that limit is very important, but the application of that limit is more important than knowledge.

The world we inhabit is geared towards teaching us how to earn a living. This begins with going to school and then learning a trade that will earn us money and allow us to live in comfort. The world doesn't teach us the concepts of life - those principles that will add value to our lives. An example of such a principle is that of not hoarding material wealth:

Luke 12:15 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Life is not about the abundance of what we have been able to store for ourselves. The world we live in today has taught us a million different ways to stack up material stuff which might never be required. The root of this characteristic stems from 'covetousness', a sin we are all

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

guilty of committing. We might have an abundance of possessions due to the application of what we have been taught at school. We can easily get totally consumed by this and, in error, substitute the value of our life to be our jobs and our hobbies. Here again you can see the importance of the application of knowledge.

There are two questions directly connected to this principle mentioned in the passage of Scripture above.

Mark 8:36-37 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

How will it actually profit any of us - if we should gain the world and lose our soul? What can we give for our soul? We might gain the world and be happy, because all those who have the same mind-set will look up to us in envy and awe, but it is short-lived because the end is very near. When we die that will be the end of it. All that glory will be gone forever because we cannot keep ourselves alive since we have no power to retain the spirit on the day of death. We have no control over the day that we leave this world, just as we have no control over the day we came into the world. We do have some control over what happens between those two days; how we apply what we have learned during our lifetime.

What can we give in exchange for our souls will become clear by the end of this study. It might seem simplistic to many without wisdom, but is profound in those who are searching for the answer to the question: "what can a man give in exchange for his soul"?

The simple answer is faith and obedience to the truth. First we have to find out the meaning of faith, obedience and the truth. Secondly, we have to apply into our lives the knowledge of the outcome of our search. As you can see, knowledge confined to one's head, in other words, knowing what to do, is not good enough. There must be application of that knowledge. This is the key to success towards attaining salvation.

This study is about the importance of application: which is simply the application of principles from the word of truth that add value to our lives. It is imperative that we understand the meaning of faith, truth and obedience. Faith, truth and obedience all link together. The roots of obedience stems from the truth, and without faith we cannot walk in obedience of the truth.

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

Everyone in the world would like to know the truth. Some may immediately scorn and deride the answer. According to the dictionary, the truth is a fact or belief that is acceptable as true. In the world we live in today, what can be accepted as the truth when everyone has an opinion that is right in their own eyes?

Matthew 4:4 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

We know God is the creator of all things, and if we are to live by every word that has proceeded out of the mouth of God, then we should understand that the word of God is important. Where can we go to find the truth of life, which has been proven to be fact, without any doubt of its truth? The Lord Jesus Christ prayed to God to sanctify us by the truth:

John 17:14-19 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

There is no other book in the world, which has been proven to contain the truth, which we can rely on and use as a reference to find out what we should be doing with our lives, except one: the Holy Bible. Only one god has claimed that his counsel will stand and that is the God of creation.

Isaiah 46:9-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

The Lord our God has challenged all the other gods to 'proclaim as I do'. However, none of the other Gods have challenged the God of creation:

Isaiah 44:6-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. ⁷ And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. ⁸ Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.' "

Many books have been written by man but none can be compared to the Holy Bible. It is the manual for life. Some have adopted the Bible to support their own beliefs, inserting what they want their followers to believe and then removing other parts which hold them accountable. The Lord Jesus Christ prayed to God for us to use the words of this book, which is the only truth we have in the world to sanctify all those who believe. It provides the words of the Lord Jesus Christ; his words are spirit and they are life:

John 6:63-65 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

The words of God can only be spiritually discerned. They give life to those who God the Father has justified. It is the Lord who opens our understanding of the truth and gives us knowledge of the requirements of life:

Luke 24:43-45 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁴³ And He took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

There are those who say that the Old Testament has been made redundant. However, this perspective should be reconsidered - as much is written about the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in both the Old and New Testaments, and we know this has not been fulfilled. Many dedicated scholars have studied the Bible but have never understood what it means, because their understanding has not been opened by the Lord. The Lord will only give understanding to His servants - to show them what is to come:

Revelation 1:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, ²who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

The word of God is for the servants of God, those who have decided to heed His words and to walk according to His laws and commandments. We have to be aware of the fact that the word of God is the only truth, because it is powerful and living:

Hebrews 4:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

God has appointed a day in which we will all have to give an account of what we did with our lives. He sees and knows our thoughts and the intent of our hearts. Therefore, should we not at least take heed of His word, the truth, and walk in obedience to His laws and commandments?

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

WHAT IS FAITH?

There is only one place in the world that gives us the true definition of faith and that is in the Holy Scriptures. The dictionary definition of faith is not close to the truth. Faith is not just a religion, a belief, or a denomination. Faith is more than just believing. Without faith, we cannot please God:

Hebrews 11:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

If God esteems faith so highly, to the point where we cannot please Him if we do not have faith, then we must recognise the importance of faith in our lives. Faith can only be shown towards God. We must believe He is God and with God all things are possible. This is the foundation on which faith is built. It was by faith that God created the heavens and the Earth:

Hebrews 11:3 New King James Version (NKJV)

³By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

It was by faith that God called for light. He was convinced, without a shadow of doubt, that when He called for light, there would be light. This stems from the fact that nothing is impossible with God. Everything that we can imagine, God is capable of performing. God expects the same level of faith from us. We must be totally convinced, without any doubt, that He is capable of performing whatever we can ask or imagine, if it is according to His will. So, what is the meaning of faith?

Hebrews 11:1 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

If we hope for something, it means we do not presently have it in our possession, which also implies we cannot see what we are hoping for. Faith is the substance that underpins our hope. Faith is that unwavering belief, the power that carries our hope, that God is undoubtedly able to perform what we hope for, if we ask according to His will. As mentioned earlier, faith can only be directed towards God.

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

When the Apostle Peter spoke to the Lord whilst on a boat, he believed that if it was the Lord and He called him out of the boat, he would be able to walk on water:

Matthew 14:28-33 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

The Apostle Peter's hope was to walk on water. We all know a man cannot freely walk on water. When the Lord called him out of the boat, he knew the power to walk on water will be granted to him from the Lord. But his faith moved him to ask the Lord to call him out of the boat.

Peter did walk on water until doubts set in and his faith began to lose strength, allowing fear to overcome his faith. As you can see, his hope of walking on water rested on his faith and when his faith started to waver he began to sink. That is why the Lord asked, "why did you doubt?".

The doctrine that dominates the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ is faith. It is of utmost importance for our salvation. Without faith we cannot gain the wisdom, knowledge and understanding that will drive us through the trials of life. It provides the confidence that God is who He is and is capable of doing anything according to his will, even above what we ask for and think of:

Ephesians 3:20-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹ to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

God is able to do abundantly more than what we ask or think, but it all depends on what spirit is working in us to power our faith. It is the Spirit of God that is necessary to power our faith, as we saw with the example of Peter.

WHAT IS OBEDIENCE?

The word obedience is a word that is flippantly used by the vast majority of people in the world today without understanding what it really means. Many will say that they obey the laws of their community and nation, but in practice their actions are contrary to what they say. There are some exceptions, but we are a generation of people that tend to do what pleases us, without empathy for others. Those in authority who are supposed to be the custodians of the laws of the nations are the first to walk in contrary to the very laws they have been put in position to police. How do they expect others to keep these laws?

The word obedience is defined as compliance with an order, request or law. In other words, obedience is submission to another's authority. Authority, laws, orders and requests have been put in place to help us live a peaceful life. However, some of the laws man has devised are actually a hindrance to society and are not worth the paper they are written on. This is not a license to live contrary to them, unless they are against the laws and commandments of God, who is above all.

It is of paramount importance to understand that obedience has two facets. The first is a mind-set to obey and the second is the application of that mind-set.

THE MIND-SET TO OBEY

The mind-set to obey involves developing a characteristic, a habit within us to always submit to another's authority when required. Without a mind-set for obeying laws and commandments - it is impossible to actually keep the laws and commandment of society. Some people, regardless of the number of times they have been called to face the authorities, will continue to live contrary to the laws of their community. This has detrimental effects on the lives of other law-abiding people. These people know what they are doing is wrong, but they cannot stop themselves. Their minds are not set in the right

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

way to allow them to obey these laws - even if they agree to abide by the laws of their community. If the majority of people in the world today are bent on breaking the laws of their community and nation, what about the laws and commandments of God, will they keep them? Will they not obviously scorn and deride the laws and commandments of God, who they have not seen?

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write about our days:

2 Timothy 3:1-5 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

The above passage of Scripture defines the character of the majority of people of our generation. This implies that we may very well be in the 'last days'. Although this passage of Scripture was written many centuries ago, it gives an astonishingly accurate description of the people of our generation. The mind-set of these people, which determines their character, is centred on themselves. The God who created these people has no place in their lives. This stems from the fact that they have not retained God in their minds because they suppress the truth:

Romans 1:18-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

²⁴Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, ²⁵who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

²⁸And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, ³⁰backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³²who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Is this not the world we inhabit today? Do you think this behaviour will go unpunished? We should look at the examples of what happened to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament, whose minds were not set to obey God, but to do whatever was pleasing to them. We are heading in the same direction or possibly even worse than they were. Our days are surely numbered.

As we progress in the process of sanctification, growing in the knowledge of the truth, there is a passage of Scripture in the letter to the Romans that we should hold at the front of our minds:

Romans 12:1-2 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

In this passage of Scripture, the Lord is pleading with us to yield our bodies to Him and be transformed by the renewal of our minds. In order to do His will, we have to change our

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

mind-set - from the ways of this world to the ways of God. We might have the Spirit of God, but if we do not open our minds to the Spirit, to empower our transformation from the ways of this world to that of the kingdom of God, we will not see the required changes in our character.

This passage of Scripture was further expounded when Paul was inspired to say: let the mind-set that is in the Lord Jesus Christ be also in us:

Philippians 2:1-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ²fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

This passage of Scripture is a summary of what it means to be a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are commanded to look, not only for our interest, but also for the interest of others, to move away from our self-centred behaviour. This is the key point of what has been discussed so far. We are to develop the mind-set which was in the Lord Jesus Christ. He who was the God of the Old Testament but came as a man in the New Testament. He was humble and obedient to God the Father to the point of death. Not just any death, but a shameful death on the cross for us, for our sins.

We have to remember that God is very merciful. He did not just tell us to be obedient to the point of death. God has also given us His Spirit, which was in our Lord Jesus Christ, that empowers us to be obedient to His laws and commandments.

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

THE APPLICATION

We could have the Spirit of God and the mind-set of our Lord Jesus Christ, coupled with the faith that can move mountains, but if there is no application it means absolutely nothing; it will all be in vain. It is the application of the truth that counts. There are many passages of Scripture dedicated to this topic, but we are only going to cover a few. Hopefully you will be enlightened by the understanding of the importance of application.

The word of God is like a giant puzzle and as we place the different pieces together, the picture begins to become apparent. We must invest the time required to find and put as many pieces as possible in the correct places to be able to see a clear picture. It is for this reason why the Lord opens our understanding to the Holy Scripture by giving us wisdom, understanding and knowledge.

At this stage it is imperative that we remove any misconceptions. If we have not gone through the process of justification as prescribed in the Holy Scriptures, it will be impossible to have understanding of the truth. Understanding comes from the Spirit of God, which is a free gift, given to those who have successfully gone through the process of justification.

Application is simply putting something into operation. In other words, application is the practical side of something. The doing part. For example, if we have a grain of corn and we are told that grain of corn will turn into a thousand grains by the end of September if we plant it in January, this becomes knowledge. We know about it and believe that is exactly what will happen.

By faith we go ahead and follow the instructions as we have been told, making all the preparations involved in sowing the grain of corn. At the end of September, we go and harvest what the grain has brought forth. As was described to us - we reaped a thousand grains of corn.

If we do not sow the grain of corn, we will never benefit from that knowledge. It would mean nothing to us because it would only be knowledge in our head. But if we went ahead and followed the instructions as given, that knowledge would have benefited us according to its purpose. As you can clearly see from this simple example, it is the application of the knowledge that led us to reap the benefits of the knowledge.

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

A mind-set of obedience will mean nothing to us if there is no application of our understanding of the laws and commandments of God. We have to remember to do the laws and commandments of God. It is for this reason why Paul was inspired to document for us that it is the doers of the word that are justified before God:

Romans 2:12-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law ¹³ (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

To be justified we need to answer the call to repentance, to acknowledge to God that we have transgressed His laws and commandments, with the willingness and the mind-set to start obeying them. If we decide not to follow the path that God has set before us, but choose a different path of our choice, then we have not done what God has commanded us to do. This means we are certainly going to miss the blessings associated with repentance. This makes us merely a hearer and not a doer of the word. There is no difference between someone who has knowledge of what to do but chooses not to do it, and one with knowledge of what to do but chooses to do what they please. We have to follow the instructions of God as stated.

The Apostle James was inspired to record the same doctrine, which emphasises the importance of application of the truth:

James 1:21-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

We cannot be doers of the word if we have no knowledge of what we have to do. We have to grow in knowledge of the truth first for us to become doers of the word. It is for this reason that the Lord has appointed apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors for

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

the edification of His Saints. But be not deceived, not every one of them has been sent by God. If they do not speak according to laws and commandment of God, they have not been sent by the Lord. Most importantly, if you have the Spirit of God, which is also known as the Spirit of truth, then you should know without doubt if the word that is been spoken is the truth.

The royal law of liberty, mentioned in the above passage of Scripture, is the Ten Commandments. The Apostle James was inspired to mention two of the Ten Commandments:

James 2:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

If you are of the mind-set that we do not have to keep the laws and commandments of God because we are under grace, then you lack understanding and you are being deceived. The Lord said that on the appointed day of judgement - He will say to some standing in front of Him that He never knew them because they did not keep His commandments. In other words, they did not remember to obey His commandments:

Matthew 7:21-23 New King James Version (NKJV)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the e of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

This passage of Scripture is a prophecy of what will happen during the 'Great White Throne Judgement'. These people knew Him as Lord and called him by name. They prophesied, cast out demons and performed many wonders, all in His name. Yet, what they did not have was the mind-set or the application of obedience to the laws and commandments of God. The practice of lawlessness is the same as disobedience to the laws and commandments of God. We have to remember that man has a duty here on Earth and that duty is:

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION

Ecclesiastes 12:10-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁰ *The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth.* ¹¹ *The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.* ¹² *And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.*

¹³ *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:*

Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

¹⁴ *For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*

The duty of man on Earth is to fear God and keep His commandments. For God will judge everything, including every secret thing we have done, be it good or bad. No one wants to hear the Lord saying to them on that day at the end, “I never knew you, you that practiced lawlessness”. The irony is that we all have the opportunity to apply ourselves in the right way to avoid this. However, the majority of us will not take that opportunity due to a lack of knowledge of the truth. Others actually reject this knowledge, favouring man’s traditions over the laws and commandments of God.