

To Seek the Lord

#512, Week of 6-3-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

People inevitably have questions. Why are we here? What is the meaning of life? Some scientists, the X-Files, and movies like Mission to Mars tell us we descended from aliens. As far as these folks are concerned, the thought of God is alien.

Oddly, these individuals often long to penetrate the supernatural. Scientific materialists probe the paranormal and hunger for extra-normal spirituality. The yearning exists in their hearts because God exists. "That which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them" (Romans 1:19).

The Bible also gives us reasons for being. Here is one of them. It relates to God. "He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God" (Acts 17:26-27). Why did God place us on the earth? God put us here so that we would seek Him.

We don't fulfill this purpose as we should. God often uses extreme measures so we will. David prays about people who regard God as alien. "Pursue them with Your tempest and terrify them with Your storm. Fill their faces with dishonor, that they may seek Your name, O Lord" (Psalm 83:16-17). We encounter storms, real and emotional, to get us thinking, praying, and seeking.

Light from God

#513, Week of 6-10-2018

Dr. Dennis Prutow

When I was a youngster, we visited Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. Once inside a huge subterranean cavern, our guides turned out the lights. There was deep darkness. We could not see our hand in front of our face. The guide struck a match. We stood amazed at how such a tiny light pushed away the heavy black veil of darkness. We could see the vaulted ceiling and shimmering walls. I could see mom and dad.

The pages of the Bible are often dark and obscure. We need light from God. Look at the words of 2 Peter 1:19. "We have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts."

The prophetic word is the Bible. We ought to pay attention to it and read it. There is light in the Bible. We also need light from the Spirit of God to derive light from the printed page. We need light from God to arise like the sun at dawn and illumine the words of Scripture we read in the Bible.

When this occurs, light comes on in our hearts and in our heads. We marvel. A little light from God can dispel a vast amount of darkness in our hearts.

Baptism and the Life You Live

#450, Week of 6-17-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

There is a relationship between the water of baptism, symbolizing God's work of cleansing from sin, and each of our lives. The connection is simple. If you are a baptized person, you always need to improve, live up to, the sign placed upon you.

Perhaps you were baptized as an infant. The sign of God's work of cleansing was placed upon you. You need to have the inner cleansing, "the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5), represented by that sign. You need to come to Christ for that cleansing.

Perhaps you are a person who went to church as a youngster. You were baptized as an adult. Now you have fallen away from Christ and His church. You bear the mark of God's work of grace in cleansing the human heart from sin. But your life denies your baptism. You really need cleansing from Christ.

No matter your stage in life, although the sign of God's cleansing work is upon you, the actual work of cleansing is not complete. You are not free from sin. You must strive to live more fully in accordance with your baptism, the sign of cleansing you bear. Make it your task to improve your baptism week by week, month by month, year by year. Make it your goal to live more like the person God wants you to be.

Finding Power and Love

#514, Week 6-24-2018

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

We fulfill one of the purposes for our existence when we seek God (Acts 17:26-27). When we seek Him, we consult with Him. We take our joys and difficulties to Him in prayer. We seek direction from Him by reading the Bible. We receive light from God as we ply the pages of the Bible (2 Peter 1:19).

Ultimately, we need strength and power from God. We need the love of God poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). The Bible calls the infusion of love and power the new birth.

We derive this power, love, and new birth from God by means of His word given in the Bible. It's a pretty simple principle. It is also quite profound. Here is what 1 Peter 1:23 says. "You have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God."

The word of God is the Bible. The imperishable seed is the Holy Spirit. God plants this seed in our hearts as we seek His face by reading the Bible, by praying, and by listening to the Bible being taught. We follow Isaiah 55:6. "Seek the Lord while He may be found." As we read the Bible we find the Lord Jesus. We see why He came and what He does.