

To Seek the Lord
#512, Week of 6-2-2019

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 6-9-2019

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.

Finding Power and Love
#514, Week 6-16-2019

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.

God has a Way
#515, Week of 6-23-2019

by Dennis Prutow

A piece of furniture from the house of worship, the ark of the covenant, had to be moved. A brand new cart was hewn for the task. Uzza was one of the drivers. The cart faltered. Uzza put out his hand to steady the cargo. "The anger of the Lord burned against Uzza, so He struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark; and he died there before God" (1 Chronicles 13:10).

After some reflection, King David declared his opinion to the priests. “Because you did not carry it at the first, the Lord our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance” (1 Chronicles 15:13).

Numbers 4:15 declares no one must touch the ark of the covenant on pain of death. God also designated certain priests to carry this sacred chest with poles inserted through rings on each side of the ark. God gave this rule or ordinance. David failed to approach God, to seek Him, according to the ordinance.

Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6). We have little problem following the prescriptions a doctor gives us to heal our bodies. We should have no difficulty following God’s prescription for the healing of our souls.

Classic Christian Faith

#503, Week of 6-30-2019

by Dr. Dennis Prutow

The classic Christian confession is simple. “If you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). Jesus died and rose again. He died as a sacrifice for sins. He rose from the grave as proof His sacrifice was acceptable to His Father. “When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Hebrews 1:3).

The risen Christ appeared to Paul on the Damascus road. From personal experience, the apostle understood, “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13). This is a quote from the Old Testament, Joel 2:32. It is a reference to Jehovah. The apostle Paul has no hesitation. He applies to Jesus a verse in the Old Testament that specifically refers to Jehovah.

Some consider this blasphemy. When Jesus made this claim people assaulted Him. “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God” (John 10:33).

The claim of Classic Christianity remains the same. Jesus is Lord. He is not simply a good man. He is not simply a divine being. He is The Divine Being. He is Immanuel, which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).
