

TURN
ON
HEADLIGHTS

Understanding God's Will – Lesson 4

"Turn on Headlights"

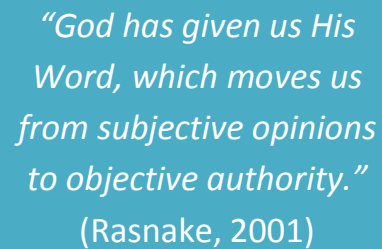
I. Introduction

- a. Life presents us with a variety of questions and very few answers.
- b. We must consider carefully the decisions we make and the long-term consequences they will have on others and us.

II. Walking in the Light

a. Sources of "Light"

1. Human interaction – advice from friends, family, co-workers, ministers, etc.
2. Horoscopes & other superstitious devices
3. Self-Help Books



*"God has given us His Word, which moves us from subjective opinions to objective authority."
(Rasnake, 2001)*

b. God's Light Source

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."
2. Psalm 119:105 – "Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."
 - o This clearly demonstrates the ability of God's word to show us where we are currently and gives us a glimmer of direction as to where we should be going.
 - o "It gives enough light to keep you from stumbling, but not so much that you are distracted from watching your step." (Rasnake, 2001)
 - o There is an idea of **Progressive Illumination**. – God unfolds truth and understanding with the passing of time.
3. Psalm 19:8 – "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

4. Psalm 43:3 – “O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.”
5. Psalm 119:130 – “The entrance of thy word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”
6. John 3:19-21 – “And this is the condemnation, that light is come unto the world, and men loved darkness rather than light...”
 - o It is evident from this Scripture that man has a bent against

III. Following God Through His Word

- a. Godly Counsel – a wise person listens to Godly counsel. Proverbs advocates humility and consideration of wise counsel.
 - b. Godly Study
 1. Use diverse resources including the following:
 - Concordance – helps to find Scriptures or words within passages. (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance or Vines’ Exhaustive Concordance)
 - Naves Topical Bible – used to find topics in the bible.
 - CD Programs – electronic programs that provide various resources including commentaries, concordances, varied translations, maps, etc. (Logos Scholar’s Library)
 - Online Study Resources (<http://www.authenticwalk.com/bibletoolbox/>)
 2. Read
 - Acts 17:11-12 – “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so. " [12] Therefore many of them believed; also of honorable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”
 - They eagerly received the Word
 - They examined the word daily with a critical eye.
 - They applied what they learned.
- ❖ “Not only does Scripture help us to determine God’s will, it also helps us to desire it.” (Rasnake, 2001)

IV. How the Bible Speaks to Us

- a. Proclamation – “thou shalt”
- b. Prohibition – “thou shalt not”
- c. Promises – “if you will... I will...”
- d. Principles – Foundations for life

V. Barriers to Obeying This Sign**a. Misapplication or Misappropriation**

1. 2 Timothy 2:15 – “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
2. We often misinterpret Scripture to serve our own purposes.
3. 2 Peter 1:20 – “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation.”

b. Stubbornness

1. James 1:22 – “But be ye doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”
2. Despite knowing and clearly understanding the principles of the Word, we often refuse to obey.

Send forth, O God, Thy light and truth,
And let them lead me still,
Undaunted, in the paths of right,
Up to Thy holy hill.
Then to Thy altar will I spring,
And in my God rejoice;
And praise shall tune the trembling string,
And gratitude my voice.

O why, my soul, art thou cast down?
Within me why distressed?
Thy hopes the God of grace shall crown;
He yet shall make thee blessed.
To Him, my never failing Friend,
I bow, and kiss the rod;
To Him shall thanks and praise ascend,
My Savior and my God.