

feb 24

hopelessly devoted to You

"but I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." 2 cor 11:3

i don't know about you or anyone else, but there are times i am overwhelmed by doctrines, teachings, eschatology and all. there just seems to be so much to learn and so little time. this added to the fact that i feel i know so little even though i want to know more. one of my favorites scriptures has always been mark 4:24. "the measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you - and more besides will be given to you who hear." that is from the classic amplified translation.

i don't know about you but most of my working life was so full and time for study was limited by many things. oh, i suppose there are things i could have eliminated and substituted study for. but frivolity and fellowship can also feed the spirit. my dear mentor and friend used to go and park by an area pond or lake sometimes and just sat by the water without a word spoken and had our spirits refreshed by the Lord. i don't fully understand why water seems to have a calming, refreshing effect on many. somehow i come away feeling renewed; kind of like the air smells so fresh after a summer shower.

the fact is, no one will ever know everything - no one but God. and yes, that is not to say we shouldn't study and try to learn. the scriptures admonish us: "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 tim 2:15 kjv it's just that we don't want to make "study" the essence of our venture. the jewish people did this and stumbled over the deeper truths. "the words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." john 6:63

the whole point of the scriptures were to bring readers to Jesus; to reveal Him and make us more like Him. He was there all the time. hidden in this passage and then in that one. that's why there is a "rightly dividing" of it. it's true we shouldn't take a single scripture out of context. read a little before and a little after and that will give you the intent of the passage. that's needed when seeking for guidance or enlightenment. scripture always has a literal meaning, but then, on occasion, suddenly a deeper, hidden truth will jump out.

there are two primary Greek words that describe scripture which are translated "word" in the new testament. the first, logos, refers principally to the total inspired Word of God and to Jesus, who is the living Word. logos is found in john 1:1 then there are times when we are reading along and suddenly something jumps off the page at us. the written word becomes spirit and a life giving force. God is speaking directly to you through his word. these are rhema words. it is Spirit speaking to spirit. these 'Word's allow us to be conformed more and more into His

image. "and 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." rom 12:2

i guess what i'm really saying is to study as much as we are able but not let ourselves be beat down to the "letter" of the law. let the Holy Spirit have His way. He changes our wants and desires to our benefit. let the Spirit flow. do not let the enemy confuse your mind with the complexities of God. hold fast to the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. He will get it done.

study in the Spirit. read in the Spirit. trust in the Spirit. you will find yourself walking in the Spirit and soon all those musky desires of the flesh will start fading away. "oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" rom 11:33