

The Holy Bible - A Remarkable Book

This week we learn that we can obtain help from God's Word in time of need.

'Joash the King remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him' 2 Chronicles 24v22.

Bible Readings for this week

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	2 Chronicles 22 (The rescue of Joash)	
Monday	2 Chronicles 23v1-11 (Joash made King)	
Tuesday	2 Chronicles 23v12-21 (Athaliah is slain)	
Wednesday	2 Chronicles 24v1-14 (Joash's zeal while Jehoiada was priest)	
Thursday	2 Chronicles 24v15 -27 (Joash shows his true colours)	
Friday	Philippians 2v1-18 (Work out your own Salvation)	
Saturday	Matthew 7 (Not everyone is a Christian!)	

Important Lesson for us Today: Whose light are we relying on for salvation?

On a dark night we would be foolish to go cycling without lights, relying on a friend to light the way for us. Anything could happen to separate us from their light and leave us in danger. **Yet** so many rely on someone or something else for their hope of Salvation. Children can rely on the faith of their parents to get them to Heaven. Church goers can rely on their church attendance and good works to get them to heaven. Whilst others rely on their being born in a Christian country. The only reliance anyone can have is based on the examination of their own heart to see if they have seen their sin and have truly trusted in the Lord Jesus for forgiveness and been given His righteousness.

Hymn 127 The reliance on anything but Jesus Christ crucified for salvation is vain (empty).

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| 1. Vain the toiling of the builder
Where a home knows not the Lord;
Vain the watching over loved ones
Where there is no help from God. | 2. Vain are all the years of labour,
Times of trial and distress,
And, without God's love and favour,
Vain the talents we possess. |
| 3. Vainer still the hopes of Heaven
That on human strength rely;
But to them shall help be given
Who in humble faith apply | 4. Let us seek the Lord's Anointed,
And His pardon, life and peace;
Souls are never disappointed
Who, through Christ, their prayer address. |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible

The Word of God To Me.

- After such a promising start, King Joash was judged at death a failure and sinner by both man and God. King Joash only did that which was right in the sight of the Lord whilst godly Jehoiada lived. As soon as he died Joash's lack of spirituality was exposed and he saw nothing wrong in following wicked suggestions, even in the murder of Jehoiada's son, Zechariah.

His sin was so great that his servants murdered him in his own bed.

- If we believe we are Christians, we must put ourselves to the test:

Test 1 – Do we Know the Lord Personally?

- Joash's knowledge of religion never touched his heart. It was insincere.

He never saw himself a sinner who needed to be personally forgiven by God.

Have we seen the ugliness of sin in our hearts and pleaded for God's forgiveness?

Test 2 – Do we Understand the Bible?

- Joash only obeyed the Bible because Jehoiada told him to. He never willingly read it. Once Jehoiada died he felt free to reject God's laws and live as he chose.

Is the Bible dull to us, or is it lovingly read and obeyed - our treasured guidebook?

Test 3 – Do We Love Other Believers?

- Joash, with hatred in his heart, found it easy to murder Jehoiada's son.

He also showed his preference for being with anyone but the Lord's people.

Who are we the happiest with? The Lord's people or anyone but a Christian?

Test 4 – Do We Pray Real Prayers?

- Joash just read out prewritten prayers by Jehoiada. He read the prayers without thought for who he was addressing or the words he was saying.

Are our prayers from our heart, addressed to Almighty God, or just mechanical?

Test 5 – Do We Feel the Attacks of Satan?

- Joash was left alone by Satan as he easily gave himself up to his sin.

Only those who turn to the Lord are attacked with doubts, fears, and difficulties.

Take comfort if you are attacked, as Satan only worries those who are the Lord's.

Test 6 – Have We Noticed a Permanent Change in Our Souls?

- Joash was only godly when Jehoiada was alive.

On his death he showed that he had no true love for God, or His standards.

A true Christian will still love and obey the Lord no matter what trials they face.

It is very dangerous to pretend to be a Christian, just to please those around you.

The most important Person to please is the Lord. Let us obey Him and Him alone.

Examine yourself – Who do we live to please? Friends, parents, or Christ alone?

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2v12.