

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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THINGS TO NOT BE IGNORANT OF

John Edwards

The Bible records for us several things that we must not be ignorant of. For us to not be ignorant of these things, we must know what the Bible teaches. So, we take a look.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS. The apostle Paul said, *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant”* (1 Cor. 12:1). This refers to a time when men were endowed with supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit. There were nine spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:8-10). These gifts continued in the church to guide and instruct it until the completed will of God was made known (1 Cor. 13:8-10).

SATAN’S DEVICES. It is written, *“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices”* (2 Cor. 2:11). We must know his plans, his thoughts, his craftiness, and his skill. Some of Satan’s greatest devices include: temptation, discouragement, hindrance, and deceit. Satan appears among the best of us (Mt. 4:1-10). We must always be mindful of the devices Satan uses to lead men into sin, lest he get an advantage on us. Remember, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because*

your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

THEM WHICH ARE ASLEEP. Writing to the Thessalonian Christians Paul penned, *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep...”* (1 Th. 4:13). The Thessalonians, as many today, were ignorant of the state of the dead. Paul taught that the dead in Christ God will bring with Him; the living will not precede the dead; the dead in Christ will rise before the living; and that the living will be caught up together with them to ever be with the Lord (1 Th. 4:14-17).

OF THIS ONE THING. Peter stated, *“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day”* (2 Pet. 3:8). Peter is discussing the promise of the Lord’s coming (2 Pet. 3:4). The day of the Lord will come (2 Pet. 3:10). The heavens and the earth are *“...kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men”* (2 Pet. 3:10).

Each one of us needs to *“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) so as to not be ignorant.

WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?

John Edwards

The word “look” is found 155 times in the Bible. The wise man said, *“The simple believeth every word: but the prudent looketh well to his going”* (Prov. 14:15). The Scriptures record some places where we need to be looking.

LOOK TO SELF. John penned, *“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward”* (2 Jn. 8). The word of God places emphasis upon self (1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Cor. 13:5). Have you examined yourself lately?

LOOK ON THE THINGS OF OTHERS. We need to be concerned about others. Paul wrote, *“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”* (Phil. 2:4). We are to do unto others as we would have them do unto us (Mt. 7:12).

LOOK UNTO GOD. God uttered, *“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else”* (Is. 45:22). We

need to look unto God for salvation (Ps. 3:8); for the blessings of life (Mt. 5:45); and for help in time of temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). Our attitude should be, "I will look unto the Lord..." (Micah 7:7).

LOOK UNTO CHRIST. We are admonished to "...run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Heb. 12:1-2). Also, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28). We need to look unto Christ for strength (Phil. 4:13) and for an example (1 Pet. 2:21).

LOOK UP. The Psalmist declared, "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up" (Ps. 5:3). There is a real need for folks to set their affection on things above (Col. 3:1-2). How long has it been since you looked up?

LOOK AHEAD. The Lord taught, "No man, having put his

hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk. 9:62). There is danger in looking back. Remember Lot's wife (Lk. 17:32; Gen. 19:17-26). Most people live in the past. We need to learn to forget those things which are behind and look ahead (Phil. 3:13-14).

LOOK TO THE PATTERN. As Moses began to build the tabernacle he was admonished, "And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount" (Ex. 25:40). Every time that I build spiritually, I must look to the pattern! The word of God is the pattern after which we must shape our lives.

LOOK INTO THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY. The Spirit of God revealed, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (Jas. 1:25). The word of God is the mirror of the soul. We need to look into the mirror of God's word, and see ourselves as we really are, and change

accordingly.

It is important as to where we look. Where are you looking?

Responsibilities Of Husbands To Their Wives

"Husbands, **love** your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25).

"So ought men to **love** their wives as their own bodies. he that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church" (Eph. 5:28-29).

"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular **love** his wife even as himself" (Eph. 5:33).

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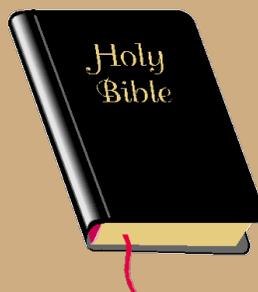
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