

**Program:** SS Panel 2024 2 Q

**Quarterly title:** The Great Controversy

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**Lesson Title:** #3 Light Shines in the Darkness—

**Section title:** Tuesday - Safeguarded by the Word

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**Note:** This color and font = quarterly text

**Note:** This color and font = John Dinzey notes

## Light Shines *in the* Darkness

**Read for This Week's Study:** *Luke 19:41–44; Matt. 23:37, 38; Heb. 11:35–38; Rev. 2:10; Acts 2:44–47; John 13:35.*

**Memory Text:** " ' "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" ' " (*Isaiah 41:10, NKJV*).

Tuesday

April 16

## Safeguarded by the Word

\*\*\*\*READ\*\*\*\*

Compare John 17:15–17 and Acts 20:32. What insights do Jesus and the apostle Paul give us regarding protection from the deceptions of Satan?

**John 17:15–17 15** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

**16** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

**17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

**Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth**

Here we have Jesus praying to God the father and what do we see is his request is for us? That we would be sanctified by God's truth, His Word!

**Question:** What is truth?

**Answer:** Jesus answers that same question in that verse and says, "God's word is truth."

**He who has begun**

**Philipians 1:6** 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

>> **this does not mean that we just sit around and wait for Jesus to complete that work, we need to cooperate with him. How do we cooperate with him through prayer and the study of God's word.**

>> **Story: I've read the Bible but I have not studied it.**

**Acts 20:32** 32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to **the word of His grace**, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

**build you up: G2026 (Mounce) ἐποικοδομέω epoikodomeō**  
7x: to build upon, [1Co 3:10](#); [1Co 3:12](#); [1Co 3:14](#); pass. met. **to be built upon as parts of a spiritual structure**, [Eph 2:20](#); to build up, carry up a building; met. **to build up in spiritual advancement**, [Col 2:7](#); [Jud 1:20](#).

\*\*\*\***READ**\*\*\*\*

**The Bible is the infallible revelation of God's will.** It presents heaven's plan for humanity's salvation. Since "**all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God,**" it is "**profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness**" (2 Tim. 3:16, NKJV). That is, "all Scripture" is inspired by God; not some parts, or some parts more than others. The whole Bible must be accepted as the Word of God. Otherwise, the door is wide open for deception.

**all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God**

\*\*\*\***READ**\*\*\*\*

“The Bible is God’s voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we open God’s word, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts! The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One.” Testimonies for the Church 6:393. BHB 5.1

**We need help to understand - spiritually discerned**

**1 Corinthians 2:14** 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

\*\*\*\***READ**\*\*\*\*

**The devil hates the Word of God**

**The Bible clearly reveals God’s infinite love in the light of the great controversy.** It also exposes Satanic delusions and reveals his deceptions. **The devil hates the Word of God and has done everything possible throughout the centuries to destroy its influence.**

**Question:** Why does the devil hate the Bible?

**Poem The Bible and the TV Guide**

On the table side by side;  
The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.  
One is well worn but cherished with pride, (Not the Bible, but the TV Guide).

One is used daily to help folks decide, No! It isn't the Bible, it's the TV Guide. As pages are turned, what shall they see? Oh, what does it matter, turn on the TV.

So they open the book in which they confide (No, not the Bible, it's the TV Guide).  
The Word of God is seldom read, Maybe a verse e'er they fall into bed.

Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be, Not from reading the Bible, but watching TV. So, then back to the table, side by side,  
Is the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.

No time for prayer, no time for the Word; The plan of salvation is seldom heard.  
Forgiveness of sin so full and free  
Is found in the Bible, not on TV.

**2 Timothy 3:15** 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, **which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

**Psalm 119:130** The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

[>>> **Story:** The father of the Temerarios

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**There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures.** No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times. SC 90.1

After all, what would we know about the plan of salvation without the Bible? How much, if anything, would we understand about the birth, life, teachings, and ministry of Jesus? Without the Scriptures, would we even begin to comprehend the depth of Christ's sacrifice, the glory of His resurrection, the power of His intercession, and the majesty of His return?

All these crucial truths are revealed, taught, and emphasized in the Word of God. It, and it alone, must be the final and ultimate standard for understanding all sacred truth.

Hence, we must fight against any and all attempts to undermine its authority or inspiration, even those who while professing great love of the Bible, bring it doubts about it, even subtly. Tragically, especially though the inroads of modern thinking, **many theologians and Christians focus so much on the human side of Scripture that the Bible becomes the word of man instead the Word of God.** The Bible, they argue, is the writings of kings, shepherds, fisherman, priests, poets, and others who shared their understandings and conceptions of God, of nature, and of reality the best that they, in their time and place, understood them.

Really, now? If this were true, why should we, living today, in the 21 century, really care about what these people thought, much less make what they thought the foundation for our hope of eternity?

We shouldn't.

Read Psalm 119:105, 116, 130, 133, and 160. What insights does the Psalmist give us regarding the significance of God's Word in the plan of salvation?

**Psalm 119:105 105** Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

>>> Notice the closeness and distance mentioned

**Your word is a lamp to my feet**

> God's word is a light and help to us here now in the present.

**a light to my path**

God's word it's a light to our path ahead of us. When you're traveling down a dark road, you must turn on the highbeams to see what's ahead of you. Otherwise you could miss either an animal or an important turn. In the same way, God's word tells us what's going to happen in the future so that we can prepare ourselves there's hope...

**Psalm 119:116** Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.

**Psalm 119:130** The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

**Psalm 119:133 133** Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**Psalm 119:160 160** The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

**Psa 119:160** Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever.

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**We should ask the Lord to open our understanding, that we may comprehend divine truth.** If we humble our hearts before God, empty them of vanity and pride and selfishness, through the grace abundantly bestowed upon us; if we sincerely desire and unwaveringly believe, the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness will shine into our minds, and illuminate our darkened understanding. Jesus is the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He is the light of the world, and he bids us come unto him, and learn of him. Jesus was the great Teacher. He could have made disclosures on the sciences that would have placed the discoveries of the greatest men in the background as utter littleness; but this was not his mission or his work. He had come to seek and to save that which was lost, and he could not permit himself to be turned from his one object. He allowed nothing to divert him. This work he has given into our hands. Shall we do it?. CE 80.2

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**The Bible was not written for the scholar alone; on the contrary, it was designed for the common people. The great truths necessary for salvation are made as clear as noonday; and none will mistake and lose their way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the plainly revealed will of God.** SC 89.2

We should not take the testimony of any man as to what the Scriptures teach, but should study the words of God for ourselves. If we allow others to do our thinking, we shall have crippled energies and contracted abilities. The noble powers of the mind may be so dwarfed by lack of exercise on themes worthy of their concentration as to lose their ability to grasp the deep meaning of the word of God. The mind will enlarge if it is employed in tracing out the relation of the subjects of the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture and spiritual things with spiritual. SC 89.3

**There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times.** SC 90.1

But there is but little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Scriptures. One may read the whole Bible through and yet fail to see its beauty or comprehend its deep and hidden meaning. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is

evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained. Keep your Bible with you. As you have opportunity, read it; fix the texts in your memory. Even while you are walking the streets you may read a passage and meditate upon it, thus fixing it in the mind. SC 90.2

We cannot obtain wisdom without earnest attention and prayerful study. Some portions of Scripture are indeed too plain to be misunderstood, but there are others whose meaning does not lie on the surface to be seen at a glance. Scripture must be compared with scripture. There must be careful research and prayerful reflection. And such study will be richly repaid. As the miner discovers veins of precious metal concealed beneath the surface of the earth, so will he who perseveringly searches the word of God as for hid treasure find truths of the greatest value, which are concealed from the view of the careless seeker. The words of inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as streams flowing from the fountain of life. SC 90.3

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**The burden of Jesus' request was that those who believed on him might be kept from the evil of the world, and sanctified through the truth.** He does not leave us to vague surmising as to what the truth is, but adds, "Thy word is truth." The word of God is the means by which our sanctification is to be accomplished. It is of the greatest importance, then, that we acquaint ourselves with the sacred instruction of the Bible. It is as necessary for us to understand the words of life as it was for the early disciples to be informed concerning the plan of salvation. We shall be inexcusable if, through our own negligence, we are ignorant of the claims of God's word. God has given us his word, the revelation of his will, and has promised the Holy Spirit to them that ask him, to guide them into all truth; and every soul who honestly desires to do the will of God shall know of the doctrine. RH February 7, 1888, par. 2

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