

### 3ABN Sabbath School Panel

#### Wednesday's Lesson

#### **"The Morning Star of the Reformation"**

We'll begin by looking at **Psalm 19:7-11**: <sup>7</sup> **The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple;** <sup>8</sup> **The statutes of the Lord *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;** <sup>9</sup> **The fear of the Lord *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord *are* true *and* righteous altogether.** <sup>10</sup> **More to be desired *are* they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.** <sup>11</sup> **Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.**

The law of the Lord is perfect – we know that God's law is a transcript of His character, and God is perfect and pure. This part is powerful in verse 7, where it says, "converting the soul." Pastor Lomacang once said, "A lot of people don't want to read their Bibles because their Bibles are reading them." **Hebrews 4:12** says: <sup>12</sup> **For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**: <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,** <sup>17</sup> **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

Random thought: I sometimes find myself wanting to go to the hardware store and buy a bunch of cool-looking tools. I want to be equipped with the best tools possible, but here's the problem: if those tools sit in my tool belt and never get used, nothing is being accomplished. Some of us are reading God's word and adding tools to our tool belt yet not applying the principles contained in His Word, and we wonder why we don't have a transformation taking place. I don't say this to discourage you from reading the Bible; this is a call to action for us to be hearers of God's Word AND doers of His Word.

I want us to look at **Psalm 119:140 - <sup>140</sup>Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.**

The literal translation of the word "pure" in this verse is refined or tried. Tried as an adjective means tested and proved good, dependable, or trustworthy. So, in other words, God's Word is dependable and trustworthy; it has been tested and proved good. Furthermore, God's Word is good because He is good. **John 1:1-5: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

Ok, **Psalm 119:162 - <sup>162</sup>I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure.** There is nothing more valuable than God's Word. We should rejoice over the rich spiritual gems found in His Word.

**Jeremiah 15:16 - <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.**

Both David and Jeremiah were hungry for God's Word. They knew God, walked with God, and loved His law.

Now, let's fast-forward to the 14<sup>th</sup> century when times were dark, but light was coming.

Listen to this quote from *The Great Controversy* p. 79: "Except among the Waldenses, the word of God had for ages been locked up in languages known only to the learned; but the time had come for the Scriptures to be translated and given to the people of different lands in their native tongue. The world had passed its midnight. The hours of darkness were wearing away, and in many lands appeared tokens of the coming dawn."

I'm so glad that our God is the ultimate Locksmith and can open doors that no man can shut. God is looking for people to be faithful to Him and His mission. As the world had passed its midnight, it was time for "The Morning Star of the Reformation" to shine. Listen to this quote from *The Great Controversy* p. 80 "In the fourteenth century arose in England the "morning star of the Reformation." John Wycliffe was the herald of reform, not for England alone, but for all Christendom. The great protest against Rome which it was permitted him to utter was never to be silenced. That protest opened the struggle which was to result in the emancipation of individuals, of churches, and of nations.

Wycliffe received a liberal education, and with him the fear of the Lord was the beginning of wisdom. He was noted at college for his fervent piety as well as for his remarkable talents and sound scholarship.”

I want you to picture this scene with me. Imagine a hot summer day in the middle of the desert. A man is standing in scorching heat with a snowsuit and a fluffy down coat. If I had to guess, I would say he'd be excessively thirsty. John Wycliffe had a greater thirst for knowledge than our symbolic example of the man in the desert. He had an insatiable desire to study God's Word and was a great scholar. Wycliffe was also a courageous man who wasn't afraid to stand for the truth. The more truth Wycliffe learned, the more he realized he couldn't buy the error that Rome was selling.

Ellen White puts it like this: “The more clearly he discerned the errors of the papacy, the more earnestly he presented the teaching of the Bible. He saw that Rome had forsaken the word of God for human tradition; he fearlessly accused the priesthood of having banished the Scriptures, and demanded that the Bible be restored to the people and that its authority be again established in the church. He was an able and earnest teacher and an eloquent preacher, and his daily life was a demonstration of the truths he preached.” GC p. 81

Wycliffe was a prime example of what can happen when we allow the Lord to work in us, on us, and through us. He made it his life's mission to translate the Bible into English and point people to Christ.

John Wycliffe accomplished a lot, but his life was not exempt from hardships. Despite his difficulties, he continued to press forward and share the truth with the masses.

The apostle Paul gave Timothy some excellent advice in **2 Timothy 2:1-3: You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. <sup>3</sup> You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

Something that blows my mind is that accessibility to the gospel has increased exponentially. Yet, we still have people living according to the traditions of men as opposed to the undiluted truth found in God's Word.

So, today, I want to encourage you to stay strong, press forward, and stand for truth. We need to have the mentality of a reformer and not a bench warmer.