

My Bible, Me

Ryan O'Connor
06/21/08

Intro

As I drove down the road the other day, something struck me so hard that I cannot stop thinking about it. It was one of those church signs that has all those clever sayings on it. I pass this church daily on my way to work and I always read the sign. But this time it actually said something that I had never seen before on one of these signs. Here is what it said,

"You are the only bible some people ever read."

Oh man, really? Me? Then this next thought or question immediately came,

"I wonder what they get when they read me?"

Intro (cont.)

You see, that statement and that question is a strong dose of reality for every believer on the earth. Whether we like it or not, people may not be accepting our invitation to go to church or accept Christ into their life, but make no mistake, in their eyes,

YOU ARE THEIR BIBLE AND THEY READ YOU EVERY TIME
THEY SEE YOU.

Think about this. Jesus was THE WORD made flesh. He was the visible image of an invisible God. He said that seeing Him was seeing God. People in His day did not read The Gospels to learn about God, they read Jesus and He showed them God.

John 14:7-14

- Philip still hungered to see the Father.
- Jesus said, you have already seen Him IN ME.
- He said, if you can't believe based on what He says, then believe because of the works that He does.
 - What are these works? Miracles? Signs? Wonders of such the world has never seen?
 - Absolutely.
 - HE WAS THE WORD
 - HE IS THE GOSPEL
- Then He said something that all religious spirits and theological spirits hate:
 - He who believes in Me will do greater works than these that you have seen.

Greater Works

- Listen, Jesus is proving a point. He is revealing to them that because they have seen Him that they have seen God the Father.
- He said that they should be able to tell by His words, but if they can't tell by His words, then they certainly should know based on the works that He did in their presence.
- His words and His works revealed God so much so that Jesus said that they should already know what God is like by what they have seen in Him.
- Then He said, whomever believes in Him will do greater works. If His works were clear cut signs to reveal the Father, what should these greater works do?
 - Reveal the Father even more so right?

My Bible

KEY POINT:

YOU are the only bible some people ever read and when they read you by listening to your words and seeing your works, is the Father revealed to them?

- Do they see God?
- Do they hear God?
- Can you say to people, "You want to know what God is like? Listen to what I have been telling you. See what I have been doing in your presence. These signs, miracles and wonders are evidence that God is real, Jesus is alive and He still heals."
- This is why our church membership is not enough. This is why are denominational affiliation is not enough. I am not hear to show people Luther and Wesley, I am here to be the visible image of an invisible God. And they would tell you the same.

He is in Me - John 14:16-23

- I love it when the bible messes of religious theology!
- Jesus just said in these sets of verses that God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) lives in us.
- If you love Him, you will keep His word and the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit will make Their home in you.
- He also said in verse 21 that He will manifest Himself to such a person.
 - That word manifest means to appear, "the manifestation of Christ by the Holy Spirit in the spiritual experience of believers who abide in His love." It means "in, to shine".
 - He in you, to shine.
 - It also means, "to make known, inform. To appear by the witness of the life."

Matthew 5:14-16

- v. 15 says that you don't light a lamp and put it under a basket, but you put it on a lampstand and it gives light to all who are in the house.
 - John 1:9 tells us who lights the lamps, Jesus.
 - We are the lamps. Jesus has lit us up and He did so not to have our light hidden under the basket of religion. He did it to put us on display and allow Him to continue to light the world through us.
- So, Let Your Light Shine, so that Men May See Your Good Works and Glorify God.
- Let people read you by your words and works and they shall glorify God.
- You are the only bible some people ever read. Will they then glorify God?

It's Time to Get to Work

- Religious spirit must go now in Jesus name.
- The traditions of men that hinder the power and word of God must go in Jesus name.
- Any basket that has covered us and hidden us must be lifted right now in Jesus name.

- We need to stop playing church and get to the works. We need to let the light inside of us that was lit by Jesus shine. We need to love Him, obey His commands and let God make His home in us and reveal Himself to mankind through us.