

## Instruction in Right Believing

Purpose: To teach children how God's word instructs them in right believing.

**T**he entire Bible is the word and will of God. But why did God have the bible written? The answer might surprise you.

**(2 Tim 3:16 KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

All scripture is profitable, or "helpful." We can use God's word to make right decisions so that we can live the more than abundant life.

God says that his word is good for doctrine. Doctrine means, right believing. John 17:17 says:

**(John 17:17 KJV) Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**



God's word is truth. God teaches us right things to believe so that we can live the right way.

The second thing the word is good for is reproof. Reproof teaches someone that he isn't believing the right way. God's word shows us where we are making *believing* mistakes.

The third thing God's word does is correct us. Correction tells someone who has made a mistake how to return to right believing. For example, in school, when your teacher finds mistakes on your spelling test, you open your spelling book to correct your mistakes. God's word tells us

how to correct our believing so we can live the best way.

Suppose someone told you about a nearby carnival. And then you ask, "I'd like to go; where is it, and how do I get there?" After you receive the directions, you head for the carnival. On the way, you make a wrong turn. Eventually you realize you should have been there by now, and you probably have made a mistake. You stop to ask where the carnival is located and receive new directions. Using the right road will allow you to reach the carnival.

God's word directs our lives; it shows us our mistakes and teaches us how to get back to the right way of believing. Living according to God's way is always the best way.

II Samuel 12 tells us about King David and a terrible mistake he had made. He was relaxing on his palace roof; in the distance, he saw a very beautiful woman named Bathsheba. He de-

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sired to marry her, but there was a problem. Bathsheba was already married to someone else, a warrior named Uriah. King David wanted to marry Bathsheba so badly that he sent Uriah to war, and to make matters worse, to the front lines. There, he was certain to be killed. Sure enough, Uriah was killed; so King David married Bathsheba. David had had a man killed so that he could marry Bathsheba. What King David did was not right, and the word says that David's act displeased God.

God sent Nathan the prophet to King David. Nathan told David that he had disobeyed God. King David had the power to have anyone who displeased him killed. God told Nathan to tell David that he was wrong to have Uriah killed.

The way Nathan told King David was through a story of a man who had a little lamb. This man really loved his little lamb because it was the only one that he had. He took great care of the lamb. There was a rich man who lived nearby who had many sheep. One day the rich man had company. Instead of killing one of his own sheep to feed his guest, the rich man took

the one little lamb that belonged to his neighbor. King David became angry and said, "Who is this man? He will surely die!" Nathan replied, "You are the man." King David knew then that he had been wrong, and he told God he was sorry for what he had done.

David knew the right thing to do, but he had chosen to do the wrong thing. So God had his prophet tell David what he had done wrong. Then David was sorry and began believing rightly so that he could live rightly. God's word tells us the right way to believe, just as it did for David. When we disobey, God tells us how to get back to right believing again.

Much Love in Christ.

Jerry D. Brown