

## 20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 8 (February 16-22, 2014)

We will continue to highlight verses dealing with the accuracy and the authority of the Word of God in this week's study.

**Sunday** – February 16

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)*

In earlier devotions, I have mentioned how this verse came alive for me while ministering in nursing homes. Patients who struggle with memory loss can still talk about things they have hidden in their **hearts**. The dreaded memory diseases affect memories stored in their **heads**, but it does not eliminate tender heart memories. That is one of the reasons I saturate my heart with promises from Scripture that I have claimed as my own. My family has a history of Alzheimer's disease, so I am comforted by the knowledge that Scripture passages will remain in my heart even after names and places leave my head. The time is coming when Bibles will be confiscated, and all you will have left are those verses you have memorized and recalled many times as the Lord brought them to mind. Begin today to place special verses and promises deep in your heart for **today's** daily bread as well as for the **future**.

**Monday** – February 17

*Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. (Psalm 119:36)*

The Bible declares: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" (1 Timothy 6:10). The next verse (1 Timothy 6:11) warns believers to "flee from all this," because God knows that we will gravitate toward worldly pursuits unless we make a clear choice to follow His statutes. God's Word does not forbid us from having nice possessions unless these luxuries consume our thinking. Jesus says, "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these **things** will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33). If God is **first** in your lives, there is no problem with what or who is second!

**Tuesday** – February 18

*It is written: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on **every word** that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4, emphasis mine)*

Jesus quotes these words from Deuteronomy 8:3 when He is encountering the devil. Satan is tempting Him to satisfy His physical hunger by turning a stone into bread. In answering Satan, Jesus establishes the fact that each and every word in the Bible is to be taken seriously as absolute truth. How would you like to be one of those modern interpreters who color-coded the Bible according to what Jesus **definitely said** and separated it from what He **could have said** and what He **definitely did not say**. Imagine standing before the Lord and telling Him that **you** helped decide what parts of His book were actual and relevant! All who pick and choose pet verses to believe or to ignore will have to answer the question that arises from today's verse: "Why did you not live by "every word that comes from the mouth of God?" Don't be one of them!

### **Wednesday** – February 19

*“He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” (Jesus quoting Psalm 91:11,12)*

*Jesus answered him, ‘It is **also** written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Matthew 4:6b-7, emphasis mine)*

Satan quotes Scripture to tempt Jesus to put His ministry on public display (v. 6b). The devil accurately quotes Psalm 91:11-12, but he omits verse 13 that says, “You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and **the serpent.**” This verse condemns Satan who is quoting Scripture to prove his shallow point! Beware of anyone who takes Scripture out of context and uses it to prove his/her own agenda. Jesus teaches that each verse has to stand up to the truth of other verses. Be sure that you know the “**also**” verses when you dogmatically make your Biblical point!

### **Thursday** – February 20

*And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times. (Psalm 12:6)*

This simple verse is quick hitting, but quite profound. Do you believe “the words of the Lord are flawless?” Based on the Scriptures we have looked at in the past two weeks, I highly recommend that you do! Those who doubt the Bible will reject truth and accept the incorrect conclusions of those who are driven by a modern worldview. The concepts that seem right to those who operate by the standards of this world will never line up to those taught in the Bible (see Proverbs 14:12). Peter tells you to “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15). Make sure your answer comes from God’s Word and not your own opinion!

### **Friday** – February 21

*As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him. (Psalm 18:30)*

I picked this verse for **emphasis**, although it says the same thing as Psalm 12:6 from yesterday’s devotions. You will need a shield in the days ahead to protect you from the incorrect teachings that are coming. God always sends the **truth** to shield us from the **lie** that follows (see 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12). You will need to accept the fact that God’s **Word**, His **will** and His **ways** are all perfect. Read Isaiah 55:6-11 which strengthens your reasons to trust His plans instead of your own. Take refuge in Him and His Word! You’ll be glad you did when He calls His true Church home for eternity.

### **Saturday** – February 22

*The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one Shepherd. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. (Ecclesiastes 12:11-12)*

This may be my favorite passage on the authority of God’s Word. Solomon wrote this almost 1000 years before the three rusty nails held our Shepherd on the cross until He died for our sins. Never take anything away from the truth of Calvary and never add anything to the message of the cross! In these difficult days, you must stand for something or you will fall for everything. Hide God’s Word deep in your heart so that it will be your shield against the accepted practices of this world!