

Reading the Holy Scripture

Scripture

“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.” (Hebrews 4:12 NKJV)

Commentary from Imitations of Christ

TRUTH, not eloquence, is to be sought in reading the Holy Scriptures; and every part must be read in the spirit in which it was written. For in the Scriptures we ought to seek profit rather than polished diction.

Likewise we ought to read simple and devout books as willingly as learned and profound ones. We ought not to be swayed by the authority of the writer, whether he be a great literary light or an insignificant person, but by the love of simple truth. We ought not to ask who is speaking, but mark what is said. Men pass away, but the truth of the Lord remains forever. God speaks to us in many ways without regard for persons.

Our curiosity often impedes our reading of the Scriptures, when we wish to understand and mull over what we ought simply to read and pass by.

If you would profit from it, therefore, read with humility, simplicity, and faith, and never seek a reputation for being learned. Seek willingly and listen attentively to the words of the saints; do not be displeased with the sayings of the ancients, for they were not made without purpose—author unknown.

Thoughts from Word for the Day

“Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say [rightly] that I am a king. For this cause I was born and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’ Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’ And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, ‘I find no fault in Him at all.’” (John 18:37-38 NKJV)

Jesus said everyone who is of the truth hears His voice. Many are like Pilate, who asked himself. “What is truth?” We should ask ourselves the same question but with a different motive. Pilate excused the truth by denying its legitimacy. We should be seeking to obey the truth because of its authority. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6b NKJV).

Prayer

Father, teach us your truth. Help us to glean wisdom from your word. You were not impressed or swayed by the powerful. You lived your life in perfection because you knew the truth and were impeccable. Lord we are but dust. Help our weak nature as we give ourselves to the study and application of the truth. Open our eyes Lord that we might glorify you today and every day, amen.