

## **PROGRAM 84 TEASER**

What if you knew for a fact there was a million dollars hidden in your house? Or a small safe filled with diamonds buried in your yard? Yes, I know. You would tear the house down and dig up the yard to find those riches. But what about greater riches than these—right beneath your nose—even at your fingertips? Riches that could guarantee that you can live forever in a new and deathless body and be free from death, sorrow, crying and pain. And what if those riches could be found between the covers of a single book?! Fantasy? Wishful thinking? Not at all. I've made a discovery too good to keep to myself. You will, too when you discover the riches within your reach—today—on More Than Talk.

## **PROGRAM 84 PAGE 1**

### **THE RICHES WITHIN YOUR REACH**

#### **PAGE 1 The Book That Can Eaten**

“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.”  
Jeremiah 15:16

This is another of the early verses I discovered while on Okinawa in the Marines. And I still remember a prayer I prayed long ago, and still do today: "Lord, I see the price men who live for Satan will pay to satisfy their lusts for alcohol, drugs and sex. Let me be driven with such a hunger and thirst for Your Word that nothing can hold me back."

Just look at Jeremiah's discovery and ask yourself, "Do I feel this way about the Scriptures?" He found that none of earth's food could satisfy his inner hunger. The Word of God alone made his heart burn and he began chewing each scripture like one enjoying the juiciest of morsels. When he swallowed that Word into his spirit, it became the joy and rejoicing of his life. And the more he nourished himself on God's Word, the more intensely personal God became to Jeremiah who now thrilled in his being identified with no other than the God of heaven: "I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts."

Be honest! How real is God to you? As real as your closest loved one? He wants to be that - and more! You will find that the more you search His Word, the more the Lord will reveal Himself to you. Someone has said that we become like the thing on which we focus. Focus on money and you will become like it - hard and metallic. Focus on getting even with those who hurt you and you become like them - mean and inconsiderate. Focus on God's Word and those very words will make you become more like Him. The Bible is a daily banquet spread before you. Start feasting!

My prayer: "I long, my Father, for the things of the Spirit to become more real than the things of the flesh. I know that will only happen to the degree I take time to eat Your Word. Please give me a whole new appetite!"

## **PROGRAM 84 PAGE 2**

### **THE RICHES WITHIN YOUR REACH**

#### **PAGE 2 A Blueprint For Battle**

“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4

Jesus is about to face the full onslaught of His vicious and hateful adversary. On three separate occasions Satan will sneer at the Lord of glory with one of hell's favorite words - "If." He will do anything to get Jesus to doubt who He is, to doubt the Father's care and to take an easier path than the Cross. Each time Jesus beats the devil down with "It is written" as He uses the Word of God - in context - to resist Satan's lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life. The doomed king of hell is forced to retreat, as he always does, in the face of superior firepower.

Jesus' handling of Satan is more than an account of His earthly experiences. It is an exact blueprint for you and me in our own battles against the tempter. He knows you and where you are most vulnerable. And he waits - even patiently - for the moment to pounce. He can even make sin appear as mere human weakness to be excused, unless you know better because you live deep in the Scriptures. Your most valuable possession on earth is not your home, bank account, safe deposit box or whatever else. It's your Bible - God's very words to guide you through every struggle you will encounter and every sin Satan will dangle before you. Read and

believe all of the Word. Memorize much of the Word. Apply the Word in your daily walk. And, like Jesus, quote the Word loud and clear when Satan draws near. He will flee from you now, just as he did then!

My prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to love and appreciate the greatest gift You have placed in my hands - the Scriptures. Oh my Savior, teach me to live by every word of God!"

**PROGRAM 84 PAGE 3**

### **THE RICHES WITHIN YOUR REACH**

#### **PAGE 3 Applying The "Berean Barometer"**

"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." Acts 17:11

God noted nobility in the Jews of Berea. Their minds were open to truth and they were willing to search for it. When their fellow Jew, Paul, told them of how Jesus had fulfilled the prophets, they listened eagerly but went one step farther. They checked out everything he said by searching the scriptures for themselves. And their hunger for truth made the scripture-searching a daily effort.

You are called to do the same. All kinds of teachings - "winds of doctrine" - are swirling around looking for a landing place. Some are truth and some are error. Some are deep, others deadly. Don't allow "the latest revelation" (as it is often called) to land in your mind and heart without applying the "Berean barometer" - comparing each teaching with the Word of God taken in its context.

A gentle Christian lady had her heart tugged continually to give her money and possessions to a Christian leader. The leader later divorced his wife for another woman and continued to live well, while the deceived Christian woman became dependent on her not-too-happy loved ones. This same tragedy is repeated again and again. Yet those who know God's Word and voice will seldom be fooled by the hucksters, even while remaining cheerful givers as God leads.

Make the study of Scripture and prayer a daily habit. It will soon be a habit impossible to break and one that will keep you safe from all of the traps that lie ahead.

My prayer: "My Jesus, You have said that where my treasure is, there will my heart be also. Make Your Word my greatest treasure so that I will not be able to live without it for a single day."

## **PROGRAM 84 PAGE 4**

### **THE RICHES WITHIN YOUR REACH**

#### **PAGE 4 If The Blind Lead The Blind...**

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.” Ephesians 1:17

Reading the Bible does not transform a person into a saint. Matter of fact, researching the Scriptures can strengthen the skeptic. That's because the God who loves humility remains silent to the proud and arrogant. In the historic year of 2000, TV featured "The Search For The Real Jesus." It was pathetic - a collection of "scholars" who tried to figure out the Bible with their own fallen intellects and then tried to plant their doubts and denials in the hearts of their viewers. So it is with those who read the Bible to "prove its untrustworthiness." They only go deeper into the darkness of Satan's pride.

But what a difference when the Spirit of God decides to reveal the Word of God to the true seeker of God! An instant of heavenly revelation to the humble gives more light than do 50 years of human research to the proud. Without the Holy Spirit's illumination, you and I would find it impossible to grasp truths of the spiritual world and God would not be a present reality. Sort of like the little boy who wrote, "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."

But the Father won't leave Himself "out there somewhere" to those who hunger for Him. He wants to show you who He is - and who you are in Him: all that He has and all He has given you (see vv 17-23). Look to Him daily for "a spirit of wisdom

and revelation - of insight into mysteries and secrets - in the deep and intimate knowledge of Him. (v 17 Amplified)

Don't just read the Scriptures. Approach God's Word in reverence, asking the Father to grant you deep spiritual wisdom and revelation that leads to a greater knowledge of, and intimacy with, Him. You will thrill to all He has to show you!

My prayer: "Please flood the eyes of my heart with light, Father, so that I might know Your surpassing greatness and experience Your total rule over my life."

## **PROGRAM 84 PAGE 5**

### **THE RICHES WITHIN YOUR REACH**

#### **PAGE 5 I Pledge Allegiance...To The Lord**

"Because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever." 2 John 2

If only Pontius Pilate would have listened to his wife he would not have turned into a tragedy. He had a chance to embrace the truth of God when Jesus told him: "Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." (John 18:37) Instead, Pilate chose to follow the lies of men when he answered lamely: "What is truth?" (v 38) to the Son of God standing before him as the very Way, Truth, and Life. (John 14:6)

John loved the truth. So much so that he mentions "truth" five times in the first four verses of this brief 13-verse epistle. Webster defines truth as "the state of being the case: FACT: the body of real things, events, and facts: ACTUALITY." That perfectly describes Jesus Christ and everything that pertains to the Creator of the universe. It also describes what you can hold in your hands, study and pattern your life after - the Word of Truth, the Bible. The Truth - Christ - lives in you and the truth of God's Word directs you. That is why I keep telling you that no one must be above Him in our allegiance; no words nor books more eagerly read by you than the Bible. Otherwise you will quietly backslide from truth while still professing to believe it.

For that is the tragedy of much of American evangelical Christianity. The October 2000 "Church Around The World" shared the results of a survey (The George Barna group) on what born-again Americans believe: "68% incorrectly said that

the Bible teaches that God helps those who help themselves; 53% incorrectly said that the Holy Spirit does not exist; 47% incorrectly said that Satan does not exist; 31% incorrectly said that a good person can earn his/her way to heaven; 30% incorrectly said that Jesus died but never had a physical resurrection and 24% incorrectly said that Jesus committed sins." What a challenge that leaves you and me to so love the Truth - Jesus Christ - and so live in the truth of His Word that we will not only impact a pagan world but also help to awaken a paganized Church!

My prayer: "Thank You, Father, that I don't have to look far for truth. Thy Word is truth. Cause me to know it in my heart, to stow it in my mind, and to show it in my life."