

Spiritual starvation

scripture reading Rom 10:1-3

This morning I want to talk about what happens when God is left out of our lives. Why is it important to study God's word on a daily basis? What happens when we do not fill our minds with spiritual wisdom?

1. Spiritual Starvation

A. ITS EFFECT ON INDIVIDUALS...

1. God's people are destroyed by lack of knowledge
- **Hos 4:1,6**
2. Where there is lack of God's Word, the people faint
Amos 8:11-13
 - a. In ignorance they make the wrong choices
 - b. When they stumble, they do not know where to turn
3. Without a knowledge of God's Word, a person has...
 - a. No real direction or guidance in life - **Ps 119:105**
 - b. No true joy or peace in life - **Ps 119:111,165**

B. ITS EFFECT ON CHURCHES...

1. Churches languish for lack of teachers; teachers are few for lack of knowledge - **He 5:12**
2. Churches are led astray by false teachers and false doctrine, for how can the ignorant know what is false? - **2Pe 2:1-3**

C. ITS EFFECT ON COMMUNITIES...

1. Our standards of morality are skewed, where good is evil and evil is good - **Isa 5:20**
 - a. We slaughter the innocent, but spare the guilty
 - b. We idolize the wicked (movie stars, celebrities)
 - c. Divorce is made easy, adultery looked upon lightly, fornication "a fling, a relationship", homosexuality an alternative lifestyle
 2. The effect of such things destroy our families and communities
 - a. Evil (pornography, promiscuity) is allowed to spread in the name of "freedom of choice", ripping families apart
 - b. Children are deprived the kind of parenting that is commanded by God!
 - c. Leading to juvenile delinquency and greater evils
- **Consider how the moral fabric of our nation and others in the world is becoming unraveled when "everyone does what is right in his own eyes" - Judges 21:25**

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II. THE ANTIDOTE

A. DAILY BIBLE READING

1. A healthy Christian feeds upon the Word of God daily – **Psa1ms 1:1-3,119:97-98**

B. IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY WITH OTHERS...

1. The faithful Christian realizes the value of mutual edification
- **He 3:12-14; 10:24-25**

C. PARENTS MUST ACCEPT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY...

1. God gave the responsibility of spiritual training to the parents - **Deut 6:6-7; Ep 6:4**
2. Church may provide assistance with their children's classes, and yet...
 - a. Parents should not pass their responsibility off to the church
 - b. Parents should be very much involved in the teaching programs of any church

D. PREACHERS FULFILLING THEIR DUTY TO THE WORD...

1. Preachers are to give heed to the Word, and to preach the Word
- **1Ti 4:16; 2Ti 4:1-5**

CONCLUSION

When we neglect our spiritual health and we reject God we self-destruct

Rom 1:28-32

James lays it all out, both problem and solution

James 4:1-10