

The to Understanding the Kingdom

While a good mystery story good “useful” book makes expands upon it, often. The



may keep the reader in suspense until the very last moment, a its’ theme and purpose clear very early and then repeats, and is the most useful of books, so does it follow this pattern?

Listening to preachers you may be confused – especially if you listen to a “range” of preachers or those on radio and television. What is the key theme of the *Bible*? If you listen to many radio and TV preachers you would suspect it is incorrectly say money is the most absolutely wrong! Just as the *Bible* make spiritual points (without money (because it is something with which we are all familiar) as an analogy when the issues or topics normally have NOTHING to do with money – it is just used as an example! So strike money and finances off as a key theme of the *Bible*.



cha-ching, money. I have heard several people talked about subject in the *Bible* – they are uses “adultery” many times (as an analogy) to making the *Bible* a sex book), it likewise uses

Well, what about those who seem to indicate the point of the *Bible* and Christianity is about God healing us, making us rich, doing everything He can to make us happy . . .? In short, God is our slave and servant! This approach tends to draw a crowd. But, alas, even a cursory reading of the *Bible* debunks this shallowness and foolishness!

OK, we are narrowing it down. Is the *Bible*, then, primarily a morality book of does and don’ts – what we need to do to get to heaven or not do to stay out of hell? No, this can’t be the case because, if this were so, the *Bible* is very inefficient – it could be summed-up (and many try to do so) in the *Ten Commandments*. Too much of the *Bible* is devoted to stories, songs, prayers, etc. to be a book focused on morality.

I like this question (What is the key theme of the *Bible*?) because, while it is very easy and apparently obvious in concept, yet, when we reflect on it, it points out how little we really know; similar to the simple question of what makes a person happy, something everyone should have thought about and resolved, but few have.

“I’ve got it,” some will say, “the *Bible* is about the love of God!” This is the approach taken by those who really like (and normally live) clichés and theoretical and superficial answers; answers which are absolutely useless to anyone trying to do or learn anything practical. There is no denying “God is love,” but this love has a backdrop and conditions in order to make it useful and valuable.

A well written non-fiction book will introduce its’ theme early, make it the focus of any subsequent “points” and end highlighting the theme – and this, if possible, with a bang. So, how does the *Bible* start and finish – maybe this will give us a clue?

The first chapter of the Bible and the second to last chapters begin with cataclysmic events:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ^{Ge 1:1}

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ^{Rev 21:1 - 2}

With the final verses of the *Bible* being:

He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen. ^{Rev 22:20 - 21}

Do these verses give us a hint about *Bible*? They absolutely do – drum-roll as it does to show the pure and perfect



the theme, the key, please – the *Bible* sovereignty of God. The sovereignty of God



to the entire begins and ends

(Almighty God!) is the theme of the *Bible*. And it shouldn't take a brain surgeon OR rocket scientist to quickly contrast this with the utter weakness and helplessness of ALL men!

We look at the Donald Trumps of the world are. But they too, VERY soon, will at best or urn! No one is greater than their ultimate is the sovereignty and power of God!



in awe – thinking how important they find themselves “resting” in a casket power and control! The *Bible's* theme

Without understanding this, a person cannot hope to be a Christian – to grow in the grace of knowledge of our **LORD** and Savior Jesus Christ. And this because this key (sovereignty) is the further key to our faith – the source of our grace and salvation:

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
Heb 11:5 - 6

Faith is exhibited by what a person says¹ and what they do² – leading to who and what they are³. A “faith” of either words¹ or deeds² that does not change a person³ is not a faith that will save a person. And this because if we **REALLY** believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him we will humble ourselves, by realistically looking at our short and pitiful reign of power, so that we “come under” God's sovereignty. We will look for and to the *Bible* as the “Word of God” for answers to the trials we all periodically and will surely ultimately face.

We can pray, when in a jam, “Your will be done . . .” hopeful maybe God can do something. We may quote *Romans 8:28* – “All things work together for good . . .” without much conviction, because what else can we do in a time of disaster?

When the devil tempts us with some piddly “kingdom” do we fall for his cheap trick, or are we PREPARED (How? By earnestly seeking him in good times!) to answer by faith as Jesus did:

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.”
Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” Lk 4:5 - 8

Just as thankfulness is THE understanding and experience our faith. And this understanding our faith to the daily (mostly small, issues of daily life. The Sunday-cheap, what I say/not what I do the “real thing.”



barometer of our happiness, our with God's sovereignty is the barometer of our growth as we study, wrestle with and apply ordinary and mundane) challenges and only, philosophical, theoretical, talk-is-approach . . . is a caricature of faith – not

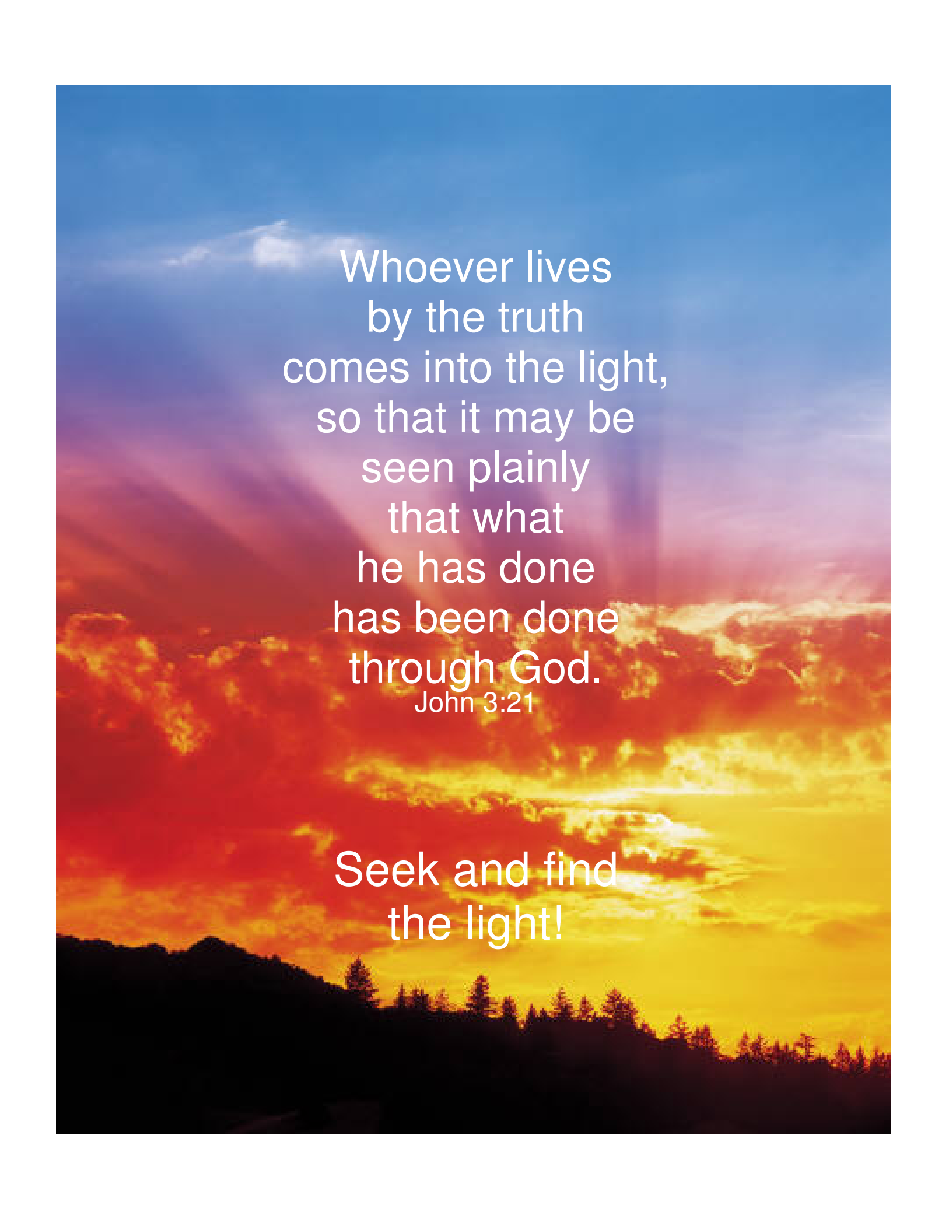
The righteous will live by his faith Hab 2:4

Seek the LORD while he may be found; Isa 55:6

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Mt 7:7

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Mt 6:32

Who can expect to have faith when they really need it (for the big things) if they don't seek (and exercise) faith on the small issues of everyday life? Don't be deceived by the caricatures of faith all too often presented as authentic! Remember,



Whoever lives
by the truth
comes into the light,
so that it may be
seen plainly
that what
he has done
has been done
through God.

John 3:21

Seek and find
the light!