



September 5, 2010

Turning The Power Off

Storms, accidents and other things sometimes cause power outages. Recently we had one when a transformer apparently blew up. Two years ago we were without power for over a week after hurricane Ike rolled through. When these situations occur it shows how dependent on electricity we are and how much of our lives are altered when we cannot access common conveniences. In the absence of power there are those who may be able to live without it. A few have moved to areas where the wilderness is relatively unspoiled by the intrusion of modern power companies and utility lines strung across the landscape. Others attempt to replace the loss of real power by running generators or adapting solar panels for long term use. In the absence of power from a utility company we may find substitutes but those fall short of meeting the requirements for all the things we need electricity for. If we think in terms of spiritual strength we find that the true power is from God. There are many substitutes in the world that claim to be the power of God but they, like substitute power sources cannot provide what one needs to be right in the sight of God. Paul states, ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Rom 1.16)***. The word of God will save if we read it and follow what it says. There are many who don’t believe that the word is complete. Others may think that it is flawed or there are things that are missing. I think one of the preoccupations with the Dead Sea scrolls over the years had to do with the idea that something would be revealed that demonstrated that the Bible is not complete. Whenever we reject the word of God, and substitute something else for it, we have essentially turned the power of God off in our lives. One or more of the multitude of prevailing false doctrines in the world are used to replace the word of God. If we replace a 60 watt light bulb with a candle we will immediately notice the difference. We won’t be able to see and there is the danger of the candle flame burning something in the vicinity. When God’s word is replaced with something else that lacks the spiritual brilliance of the scriptures most never realize that something is not the way it should be. When told that the Pharisees were offended by something that he said, Christ instructed his disciples, ***“...they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” (Matt 15.14)***. Those who were influenced by the false teachings and practices of the Pharisees may have accepted their view of the Law of Moses and never questioned the error they were being lead into. In a longer rebuke of the Pharisees, Christ stated, ***“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.” (Matt 23.15)***. In our homes we may want to check that a circuit is live and use a volt meter to do so. We may be surprised to see that voltages vary during the day and week. When it comes to spiritual things what volt meter would we use to test what we are being told and determine if it is true? We read of the Bereans that ***“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17.11)***. They were not willing to just accept something because the individual presenting appeared credible. They went back to the scriptures and critically evaluated them to understand and do what was needed. Today there are many folks who have good intentions but never take the time to go back to the source and verify the information. We have the revealed word of God in the world with us today. We accept the fact that it is what can and will save, but we also have to acknowledge that there is a proper form, or way to access the salvation that God offers. Too many times folks turn off the switch and live in the dark.

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