



Your
DISTRESS CRIES
Answered

404

Stewards Of Scripture - S.O.S.



S.O.S. - Stewards of Scripture

Introduction

Chap 1 - Scripture's Quartet of Purpose

Chap 2 - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Preparation

Chap 3 - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Variety

Chap 4 - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Fiber

Chap 5 - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Dessert

Chap 6 - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Bible Picnic

Chap 7 - Scripture Feeding Others

Chap 8 - Praising Our Blessed Savior

Chap 9 - Solace of Scripture (SOS)

[~] [~] [~]

On-line screen-readable at:

SOS-BIBLE.blogspot.com

by
James Curtis

© 2014 Work.Space Programming

ReachingYouth.net

grampscurtis {at} gmail.com

Disclaimer

This resource is provided 'as is' and meant to show some alternative low-budget methods to be a part of the Bible's Great Commission to all Christians.

Its author, websites, and publishers shall be held blameless for any harm – physical or intellectual, real or imaginary by the reading or construction mentioned on these pages.

~ ~ ~

S.O.S. - Stewards of Scripture

Introduction

A small clump of taste buds, that's how I started out. Around that clump God wrapped a body of blood, muscle, and bone, and a voice to be heard. Some 70 years later, with a smile, I tell others I enjoy the fuel and flavors of food so much that at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb¹, I'm gonna eat till it gets dark. ('course, it never gets dark in Heaven, right?)

God's Precious Word – our Bible, is a feast of warnings and heavenly wonder, often presented with food metaphors and parables.²

A famous prophet of the Bible's Old Testament, Jeremiah had a life's ministry far more difficult than most. His words (inspired by God, of course) in chapter 15:16 identify a very strong link between our dietary intake and scripture, as follows: *“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”*

Troublesome circumstances continually surrounded him as he endeavored to maintain his obedience to his loving, God (Jehovah). Yet he internalized God's word and it produced joy and rejoicing in himself.

STEWARDS OF SCRIPTURE leads us through the difference between reading God's Word and feeding on God's Word. Using a

1 One of the wondrous heavenly events of fellowship the saved will enjoy with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 A parable is a short picture story of heavenly truths, in earthly terms, easily shared with others.

few S.O.S. acrostics, we'll arrive at **S.O.S. - Solace of Scripture**, that is the "... joy and rejoicing of mine heart..." that MORE THAN carried Jeremiah through each day of his stormy life.

I look forward to adding honey onto my cereal each morning. It also reminds me of the little fella that killed the giant and later became king. King David also wrote a great deal of scripture to the Old Testament, including the longest chapter, Psalms 119. Tucked in that chapter, about his love for God's Word, he included verse 103, my morning cereal reminds me of: *"How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"* Note: You'll get a deeper blessing of this verse, if you research "honey" and its features above other foods and sweeteners. [~]

Chapter One - Scripture's Quartet of Purpose

To many people, the Bible appears as just a haystack of stories about people, places, and times far different from us and where we'll never live and work. That view of scripture is about as wrong as anything could be. I like the word, "ALL". When it's used, I don't have to decide if something is, or isn't. "All" means, 'nothing left out.' Let's try the word out with a couple verses. 2nd Timothy 3:16 states, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*" This verse tells us where scripture comes from (inspiration of God). And how much of it? (all) This 'all' verse tells us the quartet of purpose of scripture; Rules (doctrine), Testing (reproof), Discipline (correction) and Training (instruction).

The next verse gives us the bottom line: "*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*" Note: the word 'perfect' means 'complete'. And how much of life's challenges does scripture prepare us for? 'All good works'.

In this world of dark-loving evil people and information, we need a light; a lighthouse of truth and safety. We can again call upon King David, and another one of his God-inspired statements for us, just past his honey verse, in Psalm 119:105: "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*" This verse presents to me another quartet of Holy Scripture's instruction to me. "...lamp unto my feet" reminds me that scripture will show me (1) the condition of myself (feet) and (2) if my steps are on the path. "... light unto my path" promises that scripture will show me (3) the direction of my path (God's will) and (4) warn me of dangers ahead.

Our Path Ahead, In These Pages

The path we'll follow here is also structured by "S.O.S." Jeremiah's verse about 'eating' scripture was focused directly on himself.. 'I did eat', 'mine'. etc. King David's '... like honey to MY

mouth' and 'my feet' and 'my path' also makes very personal the act of drawing God's Word into the heart and mind of everyone wanting strength and joy from its pages, principles, and promises.

“S.O.S” is the internationally recognized cry for help in the greatest circumstances of distress. We want to show the SOS cry from dwindling church attendance is answered in the proper approach to feeding on God's Word in the SOS trio of SELF, OTHERS, and SAVIOR. We'll present this feeding at scripture's pages with our feeding at the kitchen table. Our first point of focus inside the SELF (of the trio) is PREPARATION. [~]

Chapter Two - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Preparation

The Key to the heart of the Christian spirit is **preparation** – preparation for feeding on God's rich precious word. SNACKING on God's word gives no more energy to one's spirit than eating potato chips or worse yet – eating a photograph of a steak dinner. The other extreme is GOBBLING down the one or two chapters required for each day's reading by some chart. It's no surprise when the 'faithful' reader comes away confused or frustrated in trying to make sense of what is being read – would this be mental indigestion? The snacking or gobbling of scripture is likely to leave the reader with less encouragement and clarity of the God-honoring path ahead, than when they read the first word of scripture. To emphasize, - the simple solution to getting energized with a vision for the proper road ahead, is preparation; preparation as we open God's inspired, time-tested book of promises, peace, and purpose.

Table Grace

Each and every time we approach scripture to feed on its strength-giving power, our preparation should follow much of the same steps that we practice in approaching our dinner table. Our senses see the tasty food on the table or being cooked. Our noses flash the

signals to our taste buds of yummy things we'll soon enjoy. Our anticipation is even heightened as we help put plates and silverware on the table. The smells and sights remind us of lip-smacking, finger-licking flavors we've enjoyed before. All this makes it a little hard to be seated with head bowed, with our nose inches from the plate, but thanking God for this food and a fantastic body to enjoy it. We faithfully and lovingly ask God to show us how He wants us to use the energy and fellowship we receive at this table, for Him.

Bible Grace

We've just touched on our all-important preparation for feeding at our dinner table – table grace. Our preparation for feeding on scripture each time, is much the same.

As we approach God's Word, our eyes focus on the book, probably with yellowing ragged pages. There might be a bookmark or two, peeking from the pages – reminders of promises that led to answered prayers for our hearts. As we lightly touch the worn wrinkled cover, our spirit flashes a question in our mind, “I wonder how many broken-spirited hope-hungry people on this planet would love to savor just one page of scripture, in their own language?” Our spirit of gratitude to God says Thank You for not being one of the 180 million people that have no scripture in their own language, nor live in a country where they would be allowed to share it with others.

An important part of preparation before feeding on God's Word, is knowing the Holy Spirit is an alive loving teacher, given by God to teach us the meaning and application of scripture, as promised by Christ: *John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

We must also approach scripture (as we do with the dinner table) that, to remain healthy, our bodies require exercise, to keep muscles from developing atrophy. (Atrophy is the decline in effectiveness or vigor by their under use or neglect). Sadly, many Christians fall into the snare of Satan's power and purpose, by their spiritual/scriptural atrophy. They then become evil testimonies in the eyes of others.

No. I would never title a sermon, “Spiritually Constipated.”

Feeding to Our 'Full Mark'

Each of us prepare our minds to feed on the dinner table offerings till we're full. A precious verse referring to the purpose of scripture connects it to Christ's teachings and our spirit of joy (i.e. 'Full Joy') *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. John 15:11.* Taking a close look at all the parts of that verse is a full course meal of strength and inspiration, in itself. But certainly that's what we should always expect when we open our hearts and minds to what Jesus Christ and His inspired word says to us. [~]

Chapter Three - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Variety

Our taste buds work best when we eat some peas, then some meat, followed by a bite of pineapple etc. Our meals at the table would truly be boring, and not as nutritious either, if we ate only peas at this meal, and then only meat at our next meal. Our feeding on scripture is transformed into a time of anticipation when we select servings from several of its 'scripture food groups'.

As we approach scripture, we must be mindful that God inspired men to record His word with flavors of their own personalities. The Gospel of Matthew was written in a 'flavor' best understood by the Jews. The Gospel of Mark was written to the Romans with the mindset of a soldier's 'Just give me the facts and keep it short!' Luke was a non-Jewish medical doctor and flavored his gospel

presenting Jesus Christ with all details mankind could absorb. The Gospel of John presents Jesus Christ as Heaven's Gift to man of every land, like a mighty Eagle coming to us through the blue sky. Each of these four gospels are different flavors for learning Who Jesus Christ is, and our responsibility to Him.

God guarded the writing of the various 'flavors' of scripture (without contradiction) through the hands of approximately 40 men of diverse backgrounds over the course of 1500 years. Some were prophets, priests, a tax-collector, kings, fisherman, tent-maker, shepherd, and physician. The forms of scripture are letters, genealogies, history, law, parables, poetry, prophecy, and proverbs. It just thrills me to tell youth that God wants us to do texting with today's technology. He has even provided a large library of text messages all ready to share with others. They are mostly contained in the Old Testament book called Proverbs.

The Golden Honey of the Old Testament

I don't know of anyone that likes their breakfast cereal without any sweetener or tasty fruit on it. If you want anything added onto your cereal you have to go to the cupboard or refrigerator and find what you want. Just looking at your cereal and imagining or wishing there was something yummy on it, won't make it happen. You have to put into action a search for the sweetener. Maybe it's like someone searching for gold nuggets. It takes action not wishing. Two seemingly contrasting words come to mind – concealed and revealed. The sweetener in the unopened cupboard is concealed, but when we open the door it's now revealed. It takes action, but not hard work.

God's word is a lot like those two words – concealed and revealed. A well-known description is “God's power and plan for man is, in the Old Testament **Concealed** and in the New Testament **Revealed.**” So we must approach our feeding in the Old Testament with just a bit of digging to uncover its golden treasures, which will more than be worth the effort. The shepherd boy, that killed a

bear, a lion, a giant, then became King David, gives just a hint of the Old Testament gold, when he penned the words, that we mentioned in our introduction, *“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”* Psalm 119:105. I enjoy golden honey on my cereal most every morning. Yummy!

Though our Bible has a front cover and a back cover, as every book should, our Bible is actually a library of 66 books that present God without contradiction. If we approach our feeding of scripture properly we'll learn more about God in every portion, even in the genealogies and commands of the nation Israel. [~]

Chapter Four - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Fiber

We certainly can't leave high-fiber foods out of our nutrition of a healthy body. Fiber is a very necessary intake for our proper digestion. High-fiber foods we get from plants, help calm and even prevent some diseases, diarrhea, and other things. The fiber in foods isn't dissolved by the body but binds foods together, like the fibers in a rug or straw hat.

The connectivity of fibers in food, rugs, and hats is also powerfully demonstrated in the layout of scripture. Bible researchers tell us (depending on the detail) between 200 and 600 Old Testament instances are referenced in the New Testament. Scripture fiber tightly binds the Old Testament (the portion of scripture before the birth of Jesus Christ in the Bethlehem manger, with the New Testament. When we approach scripture feeding, we must expect all of scripture to be complete, in unison, and without error.

Old Testament Golden Genealogies

I agree with most of you, those 'begats' and 'was the son of' occurrences in the Old Testament books like Numbers and Chronicles are hard to read and seem like just a pile of people's names and cities we'll never see or gain any useful information

from. But then I remember that God never designs or creates anything, without a reason and without benefit to we humans. An example of the fiber of scripture follows:

Numbers chapter 1 is a list of the Israelite men able to go to war. They are listed by family. (Note: 'score' equals 20.) As a first check piece that Moses didn't get sloppy about recording the numbers, the grand total is stated in verse 46. Do you get bored with reading these Old Testament names? Don't you think Moses got even more bored with counting all these families of people and recording his data correctly? But hold on. This gets really golden good. Now watch.

In chapter 2 of Numbers, those tribes are numbered again – but in a different way. Moses records the numbers of the tribes by which side of the Tabernacle they camped on. Compare closely the numbers in chapter 2 with those in chapter 1. Especially notice the grand total of chapter 2 in verse 32. How does that number compare with the grand total of chapter 1? Neat, huh?

So What?

Spiritual maturity is largely the revelation in our eyes and heart that God provides scripture fibers of truth and purpose to be woven into our daily walk in these shoes on earth. In almost any direction we look, unity is shown, e.g. in creation and in scripture. I learn a great deal about a person by listening to how and for what they pray. It just thrills my deep down heart to read the prayer of Jesus Christ to His Heavenly Father, in John 17. Here Jesus repeats often 'they all may be one' (referring to the binding together of the true believers) against the fiery darts of Satan.

Input and Output

While we're linking scripture feeding with that of our physical food, we'll tactfully add a reference we'll never hear a sermon preached about. The sermon title would probably have been,

WHAT EVERY KITTY CAT KNOWS.

In Europe during the 14th century the Bubonic Plague (a.k.a. Black Plague) killed an estimated 25 million people by the disease being carried in fleas on small rodents. It was common in those times and places that sewers carried human waste in open ditches, easy access to the rodents. Without proper treatment the infected adult or child was dead in four days. All of this would not have happened if humans observed the movements of any kitty cat... - and also followed the distinct directives of the Old Testament scriptures of Deuteronomy 23:12 – 14. This is just further evidence of God's Word being true and complete for our needs – both physically and spiritually. [~]

Chapter Five - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Dessert

God put me together, taste buds first... or so I think. Especially when it comes to dessert. I can remember the dessert at my last dinner meal – and sometimes I can remember the dessert two meals ago. For me and my family, our desserts represent something of a mental aftertaste, which often sprout their own advertising. This brings scriptural desserts into the metaphor of our whole feeding on scripture, as good stewards.

If there was anything that ought to spark 'advertising' of good things in our past, it should be God's precious inspired word, stated in our Bibles. But this aftertaste/advertising of memorable portions of scripture; maybe just discovered by us personally, goes far beyond 'yummy' truths. The Old Testament commandment God drilled into His nation Israel, said, in effect, “Love, honor, and obey me, remembering I was the One Who brought you up and out of Egypt.”

On this side of Calvary, it's critical that you and I remember all of the provisions and promises Christ has given each of us individually. So often it's more effective for us to visually be reminded of things that affect our living, both good and bad. The

practice is quite common for us to visually remind others of sacrifices (in blood) our military has (and is) paying for our freedom, by posting a ribbon on our vehicles and elsewhere. I find it exciting that in FEEDING on scripture, rather than just reading (often skimming) scripture, the use of the remembrance ribbon was commanded, in Numbers 15:38-40:

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.”

Scriptural Dessert

In today's communication capability, we must be daily cautioned to be faithful in reminding those around us, of the sacrifice (in blood) Jesus Christ and also martyrs for the faith that have fought for our freedom; freedoms from an eternal existence in the fires of Hell. Honestly, I believe that many so-called Christians should be ashamed, by the way they squander God's gift of tech communication, by never mentioning God's gift of blood-bought salvation. Instead, text messages are almost entirely meaningless words, sent to the broken hearts and dreams of others. [~]

Chapter Six - Scripture Feeding of SELF; Bible Picnic

Picnics – I love them! The fresh air, beautiful surroundings... it really does big things to my appetite. Whether it's brats on the barbecue, corn on the cob, or just peanut butter sandwiches with some zesty fruit, it makes my mouth water. A picnic outdoors is something to anticipate, share with friends, and

talk about, for days afterward. Even with a few uninvited ants, or that plastic spork that didn't last all the way through the pot of bake beans, laced with pineapple and bacon chunks – we love picnics!

No one says you can't have a picnic feeding on God's 'sweeter-than-honey' scripture. Lean back against that cool shade tree and watch that big white sailboat slowly move across the water in front of you, as you feed on some famous voyages in scripture. And if your Bible picnic is among dark stormy skies, feed on the handfuls of verses in the first three gospels of Jesus teaching His disciples about the calm that faith brings, in the ship covered with waves. Read the account in each of the first three gospels and see if you don't voice the same question of admiration, *“What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!”* (Matt 8:23+; Mark 4:35+; and Luke 8:22+)

For me, the printed words I feed on, while I am alone in the church parking lot with no one else around to see, tend to sink deeper and take root in my mind and heart. I visualize the young pastor Timothy feeding on the almost sacred letters from the Apostle Paul. His eyes pour over the writings that were born in a lonely dungeon amid the penetrating cries of other prisoners and the unsanitary conditions. Just having those words written to him, in his hands, Timothy summons a greater zeal to fight the good fight for the hearts of those in Timothy's church. You and I can (and should) also.

Tags 'n Tears

One might ask, “Is printed scripture better to feed upon, than digital?” Asking myself that question, my eyes are drawn to a couple Bibles that were my mainstay during years gone by. Often, even now, I savor opening those yellowed ragged pages and read the margin notes scribbled in a variety of writing tools. I see words and phrases highlighted in a rainbow of colors. The notes become a scriptural scrapbook of mental pictures of sunny, stormy, and even

surprising times, which the Lord has carried me through. Some of the notes invite me to take an even closer look at the page, for evidence of the tears that were a part of the experience.

My fingers gently open the curled page corners with each one reminding me that my body is only a temporary gift from God. I am to spread the 'sweeter than honey' promises, peace, and purpose of those God-breathed words. The printed pages that have no 'tags' in the margins seem like a promise that God has even greater surprises in my future, to share with others.

There have even been nights so burdened with stress, I placed my Bible on my pillow next to my head and my hand rested on the book as though there was a guardian – more powerful than description – protecting me through the night. Each time, I slept like a baby, protected by heaven's weapon, sharper than any two-edged sword. (Hebrews 4:12)

Audio, or Visual.

Hearing, seems to be the first among our senses, that begin educating our minds and souls, even before we take our first breath, or see with our eyes. While still in the womb, our hearing teaches us the sounds of our mother's heartbeat, and many of the sounds she hears. There have been a number of God-fearing families who have begun educating their children in God's precious word, by reading aloud, scripture in the close proximity of their unborn child. So when their child takes its first breath, that little heart already knows the sound of scripture, whereby the Holy Spirit can begin nurturing the spirit and meaning of those words.

As the child begins to grow, spoken words are understood far sooner than printed words fed upon. Scripture is shared and spreads much faster than printed words. Hearing God's Word includes the tone and feeling of the speaker far greater than the alphabet and punctuation can add. I often think of the verses in Nehemiah chapter 8, in which some say is the first mention of a

pulpit. Verse 8 tells us the people were made to understand the reading of the law. At the close of verse 9, we learn all the people wept when they heard the words of the law (of scripture).

Our senses are like forks and spoons; hearing or vision, to feed our spirit and memory, producing maturity in us that becomes leadership tools in serving the lives of others. Both should be used often, at the beginning and close of every day and in between. [~]

Chapter Seven - Scripture Feeding Others

Guarantees... We like having them around us, in the products and services we have, and in knowledge we'll put into practice in our lives. Others do also. We're seeing here that so very much, even the foundations of our spirit and loving obedience to God, rest in our attitudes about holy scripture. Our appearance and approach to others, already speaks volumes to those we want to share God's promises, plan, and peace with. In our learning here, we're putting in place the S.O.S. of scriptures, that hopefully will change broken hearts and dreams into the FULL JOY that God's Word promises.

A great promise of scripture, we mentioned in chapter 1; a guarantee, comes from the lips of a shepherd boy that became a king, and a 'man after God's own heart' (King David). "...*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*" Psalm 119:105. A careful word study will show this verse is loaded with promises we can claim... and... happily share with others.

Our privilege; our responsibility, is more than share – we are to plant God's Word into the hearing and heart of others – in a way they'll happily plant in others. See if you can pick out the 5 people, the Apostle Paul includes in his marching orders to the young pastor Timothy, 2Timothy 2:2. "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*" (Hint: *thou,*

me, witnesses, men, others.)

The variety of scripture fits the lives of the whole range of peoples, the world over.

Sharing the Gospel is all about sacrifice – INSIDE and OUTSIDE.

INSIDE the Gospel message we learn the details of Heaven's provision of our redemption through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary, according to prophecy. Plus we learn that sacrifice is the one and only 'once for all, for all time' fulfillment of the Old Testament law and ordinances. OUTSIDE the Gospel message, requires OUR sacrifice each day in slaying our daily earthly goals and agenda, and putting our spirit-driven evangelistic efforts at the top of our to-do list each day.

Our daily evangelism sacrifices go far beyond our to-do lists. These sacrifices also include our finances, and other areas. I can never mention too often, one of my favorite guarantees of scripture, plainly stated in Psalm 126:6. Tears. Human tears cleanse, lubricate, and nourish our eyes. But they so often give physical evidence that our spiritual heart has received an important message – the kind that changes lives: our own INSIDE. Then also the lives of those God has placed in our harvest field.

[~]

Chapter Eight – Praising Our Blessed Savior

In this resource guide about how we are to be STEWARDS OF SCRIPTURE (SOS), our first step really should be to praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We can praise Him for all of creation around us; its majesty, its order, and how He continues to control it. We'd quickly praise Him for His design of our bodies, that can think and choose – unlike any robot or machine.

Praise needn't be an 'adults only' daily practice, but for all ages, through the ages. The smallest chapter in our Bible is Psalm 117. It

carries only two verses, each of which is more powerful than any nuclear bomb. The small chapter clearly states WHO are to praise the Lord. '...all ye' NATIONS says we should praise Him with our governments and leaders, our schools and businesses. The words '...all ye' people indicates to me, we are to worship and praise Him as individuals – we are to praise Him in our homes and families, and especially in our own hearts.

The Bible, as we can always expect, tells us WHY we should praise God... two main categories: His ACTIONS toward us 'merciful kindness' and His LEADING us in a way 'everlasting truth' that pleases Him and brings real joy (full joy) to our lives. The chapter 118 echos the endurance of His mercy. I find it interesting that Psalm 117; the mini-praise chapter also happens to be the center chapter of the Bible.

Praising that changes lives

Our praising the Savior does its greatest work when our praise is heard by others, during our stormy moments, our darkest hours. A wonderful piece of praise Bible history pictures for us this life-changing praise. The historical account in Acts 16 tell us of a singspiration by the Apostle Paul and Silas at midnight in a prison. After the earthquake opened the prison doors, Paul taught the prisoners and warden the Salvation plan. In verse 34 it says the jailer, “set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.” This praise event that changed many lives needs to be fully fed upon (internalized) to enjoy.

A deeper dimension of Praise

Psalm 47 is a praise chapter full of truths. We're given indicators of many of the things we are to praise God for. And right in the center of the chapter, like a target's bulls-eye is the directive: “sing ye praises with understanding”. We're not to use empty words, or vain repetitions, but with heartfelt understanding of the words of our praise.

Reading (actually feeding) on OT scripture demonstrates how others praised God, so that we can join in. After all, that's what we believers will be doing for all eternity. [~]

Chapter Nine – Solace of Scripture (SOS)

Those who view God's Word as a big pile of begats, do's and don'ts, will never feed on its power to satisfy mankind – even to the COMFORT of the scriptures (Romans 15:4). Notice also the 'written for our learning'. SOS is the distress call for help known the world over. Here we connect the SOLACE of SCRIPTURE with that distress call from the hearts and lips of those who've not yet accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Scripture promises itself to be the premiere How-to Manual, 2 Timothy 3:16,17. But also the path to full joy each day (John 15:11). Full joy is further explained in the close of chapter 2 – of this resource.

Scripture is flooded with assurances of God's peace, protection and provision – from cover to cover. The word SOLACE means more than comfort... it means comfort in the times of distress and in comfort. That's when we cherish comfort the most. Maybe the most famous solace scripture was written by the hand of the shepherd boy that became king. But as God was preparing David for leadership, his boss – King Saul continually tried to kill him. If that wasn't enough, Goliath tried to kill him. Even worse than that, David's own son, Absalom tried often to kill him. It seemed like everywhere David looked, someone was out to get him. Maybe you feel your life is like that. But David kept his mind and eyes on God and His will. David was allowed to write (within his own experience) the famous Psalm 23:

“1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of

righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

Print out the verses and underline the things David tells us God is doing for him... and us too.

Begin each of your days by heartfully asking God to use today's events to help you better understand and experience full joy. Then share those full joy lessons with someone close to you that has a broken heart.

[~] [~] [~]

[**My Notes**]

The Most Important Question of Your Life...

If you died tonight, do you KNOW if you'd go to heaven?

The Easy Steps to KNOW for Sure:

== A == Acknowledge you are a sinner

ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

== B == Believe the shed Blood of Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved.

The wages of sin is death* but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

== C == Confess to God you know you are a sinner and call upon Him to come into your heart.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13

Comfort of the Scriptures

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Romans 15:4