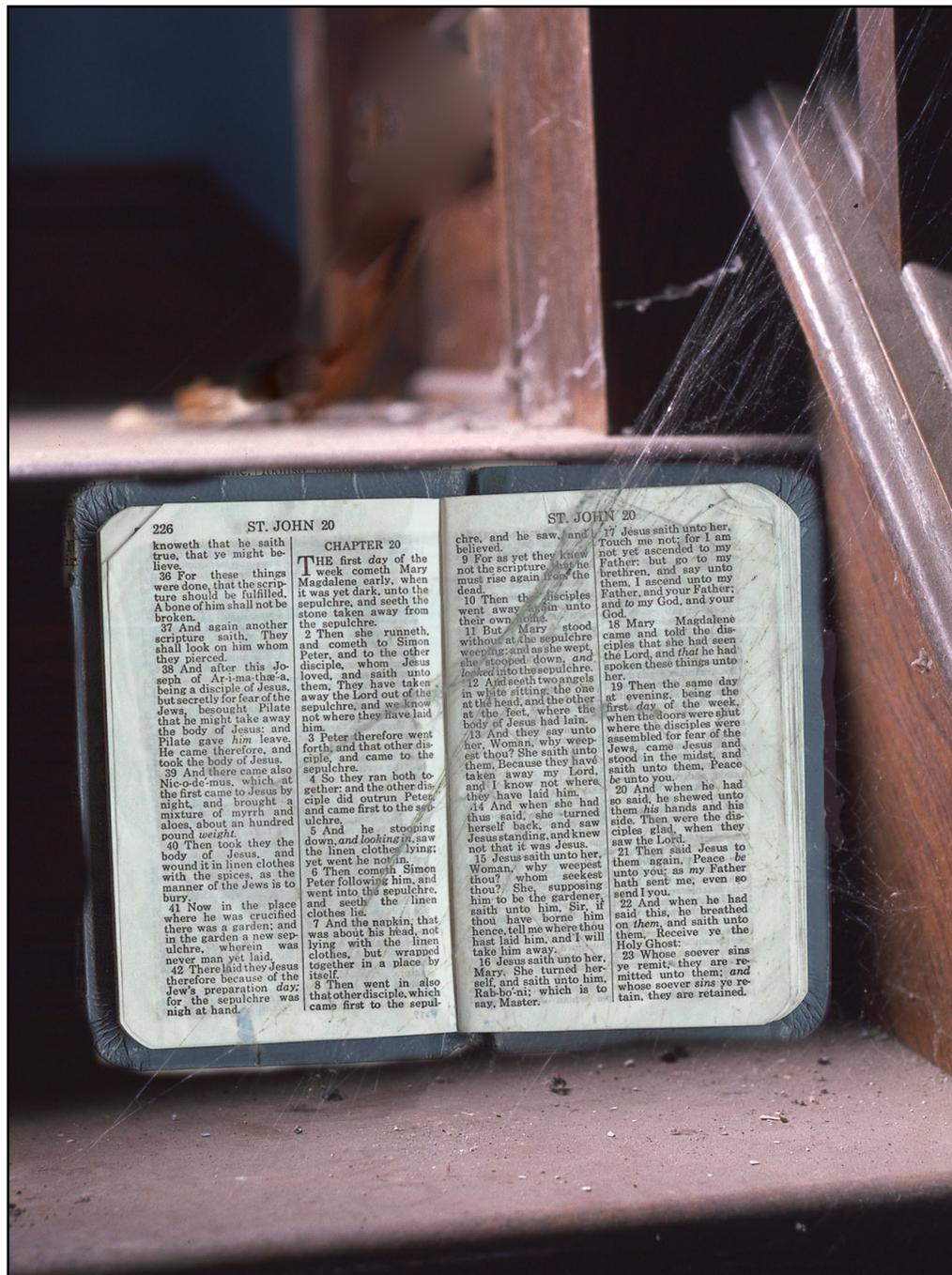


Wisdom shouts in the street,  
"How long, O naive ones, will you love  
being simple-minded?  
And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing  
And fools hate knowledge?"

Proverbs 1:20a,22

# What We Know



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ST. JOHN 20

knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled. A bone of him shall not be broken.

37 And again another scripture saith. They shall look on him whom they pierced.

38 And after this Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jew's preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

CHAPTER 20

THE first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

4 So they ran both together; and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie.

7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and

chre, and he saw, and believed.

9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own homes.

11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping; and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre.

12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

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17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

20 And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you; as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

23 Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

PERHAPS THE REASON one might enroll at the American University in Washington, D.C., would be to study politics. And if one were indeed enrolled in such a class at such a school it might safely be assumed that one would have reasonable knowledge—or at least curious, and on the path to said knowledge—of the politics being played out every day in that capital city of our nation.

And that assumption would be incorrect.

During recent man-on-the-street interviews with a number of students from this school—at least one of which was currently studying political science—not one could answer the simple question, “Can you name one person currently serving in the U.S. Senate?” They were similarly ignorant of something any grade-schooler should be able to answer: “How many senators does each state have?”

These same individuals, however, were able to immediately give the correct answer to the question, “What is the name of the hit song from the movie, *Frozen*?”



The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;  
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

*Proverbs 1:7*

We will not here bemoan further the discouraging priorities of this contemporary, temporal society, for that is self-evident. So long as public teachers insist that “self-esteem” trumps hard facts, what more can we expect?

Yet believers cannot throw stones. How many in our midst know the detailed box scores of their favorite baseball team, but can’t find the Sermon on the Mount in their Bible? How many know the names of every player on their favorite NFL team, but can’t find Israel on a map? How many of our

youth know the lyrics of every song by the profligate pop star, Justin Bieber, but don't know the words to "How Great Thou Art"?

We cannot say we love our Lord if we do not obey Him, and we cannot obey Him if we do not know what He has said to us in His word. The apostle Paul put it well in his letter to the Colossians:

For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the [true, full] knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the [true, full] knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9-10 (definition added)

One cannot truly love and obey what one does not know. Indeed, it is by knowing Jesus *that* we love Him. When we learn not just that He "died for our sins," but the true depth and meaning of that sacrifice; His absolute devotion to each of His followers as advocate, friend and brother; His true personality—not defined by Hollywood and the ignorant, but by His word; His relationship to the Father and the Spirit—then and only then are we able to love Him and dedicate our lives to Him.

God is not looking for followers who love Him only on a sappy, puppy-love level; He wants to have a *relationship* with people who love and worship Him for who He truly is.

Does this mean we cannot love Him at all until we know everything there is to know about Him? No, for that day will never come on this earth. What it means is that we must be attending classes every day; we must be always in the school of learning about Him. As we attend this holy enterprise, our love for Him grows and deepens.

I loved my wife on the day we were married, but nothing like the love I have for her after forty-three years of learning all I can about her.  
Just so with our God and Lord.



And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment.

*Philippians 1:9*