

Heaven: Not My Home

Book Recommendation

Thought Captivation: *"We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" 2 Cor.*

Two years ago I read a book about "Vocation" by Paul Marshall. Now I'm reading another excellent book by Mr. Marshall entitled "Heaven is Not My Home" (Word Publishing).

A LIGHT FOR LEARNING

The Bible says, God's Word is a "lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Ps. 119:105) But do you stare at the lamp? No. You don't buy a flashlight so you can hold it up to your face and stare into it. The purpose of a lamp is to illuminate other things. In the same way, God's Word is meant to be a light for revelation of God and on His creation. The Word of God helps us to see properly the world that God has made.

We don't find great details about buildings, or marriages, or music, or physics in the Word of God. But in the light of the Word, we can study the world and learn about such things. Because our minds have been darkened by sin, it is only in the light of God's Word that we can understand the creation as it is. (Rom. 1:20, 21). Without a sound knowledge of the Word of God, we are left with a distorted view of God's handiwork.

A LIGHT FOR DIRECTION

God's Word is more than a light; it is a light on a path. It is meant to shine on the way before us. We don't stare into our flashlight. We point it forward and down, hitting the ground about six feet ahead. We shine it on the path before us because we want to see where we are going. It helps us see the stones, cracks, gullies, and slopes so we know where to place our feet without falling.

Paul Marshall wrote: "As we study the Scriptures we need to shine them on the questions that lie before us on our pilgrimage. This includes not only questions concerning our personal life and the church, but also the farmer's questions of how and what to plant or how to make our daily bread, and for all of us, how to deal with fields, factories, studies, politics."

He continues: "We ought to study not only God's Word but also God's world; we study the

world in the light of the Word. We need to study not only Isaiah but also industry. Not only Philemon but also politics. Not only Acts but arts. It is not for us to choose between knowing the Bible or the world; we need to know the world biblically."

RESPONSIBILITY & FREEDOM

"What is so important to learn from Scripture is the connection between human responsibility and human freedom. We are bound to the Word of God and free to work out our service to God. Throughout Scripture we can find a continued story of human development in life and society. People everywhere continue to create new things. This cultural development does not stop at the end of biblical revelation. The command to fill the earth and bring forth fruit shows us that historical changes and development are very real, very much part of God's intention for human life."

CALLED TO CREATE, DEVELOP, ADAPT

"We are called by God to create to develop, and to adapt what is about us in response to the guidance that God has given us. (c)The nature of being human, or being made in the image of God, is that we are given responsibility for the earth. And real responsibility often comes when the answer is not obvious, when the laws and rules leave open several options, or when many different laws and rules apply at the same time. We are not just interpreters but also judges or deciders."

REAL RESPONSIBILITY

"We have to make real decisions about how we can put flesh on what God has shown us to be the path of peace, hope, stewardship, and justice. God gives us real responsibility. Our responsibility is both frightening and challenging. We cannot shrink from it."

I commend Paul Marshall's book to you.

John Henry