

BIBLE STUDY LIVE

God Our Only Hope

Fresh Out of Ideas

2 Chronicles 20:12

Today in America there are about 5,300 colleges and universities; 6,145 hospitals, 950,000 medical doctors and 318,599 pharmacist. This gathering of data doesn't include scientist and researchers and the rest of academia. With this arsenal of educational prowess millions around the world have died of the CoronaVirus. This doesn't mean that these academics are not doing all they can possible do to find a cure or some successful treatment; but what it does mean is that life is full of circumstances and situations when "we don't know what to do."

This is precisely the deduction in the 20th chapter of 2 Chronicles, that Judah's King Jehoshaphat arrived at after examining all of his options to defend the holy city against the marauding hordes of the armies of Judah's fiercest enemies. **QUESTIONS:** Why would God have put King Jehoshaphat in this dilemma? Why does God often bring us to our wits' end? **READ** 1 Cor. 1:19 – 20

How To Deal With Your Problems

Matthew 6: 25 – 34

In 1999 a then employee of IBM named Dave Snowden came up with a way of successfully solving problems. Mr. Snowden determined that in order to solve a problem you got to know just what type of problem you are dealing with. He said there were four kind of problems people face: First, the simply problem where the cause and effect an obvious – it's raining and you don't want to get wet? – simple, get inside! Second, the "complicated problem" – here there is a known unknown. Like your car's engine is making a funny noise; you don't know what it is, but you know who does know what it is and can fix it – so you take it to a mechanic's shop. Then Snowden says that there's what he calls the "complicated problem"- which is a problem that has no obvious solution. It requires a process of just trying different things. It is in essence a process of trial and error. Snowden's calls his final problem type the "chaotic problem"- here powers and forces way beyond our control converge and require a quick and precise response on our part – according to Snowden, this is the most difficult of all problems. **QUESTIONS:** What advice did Jesus give in Matt. 6:25 – 34 concerning how we should deal with problems? How is Christ's advice different from Mr. Snowden's approach? Is Jesus telling us that we should simply do nothing about problems?

Why We Sit Down When We Come to Church

Prov. 3:5

Have you noticed that when people come to a church service that one of the first things they do and find a place to sit down? Furthermore, I never witnessed anyone show much concerned about the chair's or the pew's ability to hold them up. Never saw anyone trying to conduct any test to determine the chair's or the pew's ability to support their weight. What I have seen in

people come in and just sits down! People sit down when they come to church because people just automatically believe the chairs and pews are able! For the Christian faith is just believing the God is telling the truth! King Jehoshaphat was willing to put the fate of the entire nation of Judah under the keeping power of God. This faith action can be seen in the prayer content and strategy of King Jehoshaphat's prayer.

Praying With A Purpose In Mind

Read 1 John 5:14

The prayer of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles is one of the most dynamic prayers in the entire bible! Let's take a closer look at the strategic petitions within his prayer to God concerning Judah's pending destruction at the hands of her enemies.

- He prayed remembering the providence of God: 2 Chronicles 20: 5 – 7
- He prayed recounting the promises of God: 2 Chronicle 20: 8 – 9
- He prayed proclaiming the power of God: 2 Chronicles 20: 12 – 15

QUESTIONS: Why was each of these prayer concepts vital to stirring the faith in God within the hearts of the people of Judah? How does Jehoshaphat's dilemma like our problem with COVID19 today?

Keep Watching What God Is Doing

Read: 2 Chronicles 20:12

The Hebrew translation of 2 Chronicles 20:12 is "Our eyes are 'watching' you (*God*)" This wording provides an excellent opportunity to explore Jehoshaphat's choice of words. Notice, the king didn't declare that the people's eyes were "seeing" God; or the people's eyes were looking at God; but he declares that in this moment of national crisis; the people's eyes were "watching" God!

Here's where I'm going with this: To "see" something means that something is simply visible to the human eye. There are times we've seen things that we didn't understand or pay much attention to or perhaps we discovered wasn't even there! Then, to "look" simply to move your eyes in a certain direction – this is often a very random action; people have looked right in the face of people and didn't speak, declaring "I didn't even see you, my mind was on something else!" But, when we "watch" something – we pay attention to it, we study it, we observe it, we investigate it and we examine it. Jehoshaphat understood that God was requiring his people total trust and observation. In other words, God wanted his people to take their eyes off of the problem and every distraction and put both their trust and their focus on Him!

QUESTION: What benefits would there be to "watching" or paying attention to how God is moving in your life? In 2 Chronicles 20:15 The Spirit of God speaks through one of Jehoshaphat's men telling them: LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; **for the battle is not yours, but God's.** (KJV)