

### **Be a Berean!**

*The Bereans...received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day (Acts 17:11).*

**We know Jesus through the Bible, or we know him not at all.** That is the urgent premise behind LAC's efforts to encourage personal Bible reading and systematic Bible study. We fervently hope that you will--

1. "Stand in the Rain" with us every day as we read through the Bible in three short years. Just go to **lockportalliance.org** and click on the man in the rain.
2. Attend one of these Bible-based classes this week—

"Stand in the Rain Whole-Bible Class"--Sunday at 9:45

"Becoming a Woman of Freedom"--Sunday at 9:45

(Contact Franklyn Pfeil--[pfeilmail@yahoo.com](mailto:pfeilmail@yahoo.com)--with questions or comments.)

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**"bad, bad, bad"**

*Jotham did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. (2 Chronicles 27:1-2)*

*Amaziah did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart. (2 Chronicles 25:1-2)*

*Ahaz did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD. (2 Chronicles 28:1)*

When Eddy was maybe 3 or 4, he had a toy doctor's kit. He had a stethoscope, a thermometer, a tongue depressor, a device that looked into the ears, and a flashlight to examine the eyes.

With all those medical devices, Eddy was quite the pest. He examined everybody 2 or 3 times a day. He even examined our dog.

And every one of Eddy's examinations came up with the same results. They all went just like this:

(stethoscope) "Heart...bad."

(thermometer) "Temperature...bad."

(ear gizmo) "Ears...bad."

(flashlight) "Eyes...bad."

(tongue depressor) "Tonsils...bad."

In the historical books of Kings and Chronicles, the Bible makes the same kind of thumbs-up or thumbs-down evaluations. The kings of Judah and Israel were either "good" or "bad." (1)

All of which begs the question: What about you? What about me? "Good" or "bad"?

No person is qualified nor authorized to make that call, even about himself. But there's a device nearby which is made for the task:

*All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. (2)*

The Bible is a mirror, looking you straight in the eye:

*For if you just listen and don't obey, it is like looking at your face in a mirror but doing nothing to improve your appearance. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you keep looking steadily into God's perfect law – the law that sets you free – and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. (3)*

Your Bible is a scalpel, which can explore regions we've hidden from ourselves:  
*God's word is alive and working and is sharper than a double-edged sword. It cuts all the way into us, where the soul and the spirit are joined, to the center of our joints and bones. And it judges the thoughts and feelings in our hearts. (4)*

Alas, every now and then, there's some medicine to take:  
*No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening – it is painful! But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. (5)*  
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My advice (prescribed for free!) is to keep your nose in Scripture all the days of your life. Otherwise--even if you're a church-goer; even if you're the pastor or the Sunday school teacher--it's likely that the verdict of little Eddy awaits. And that, trust me, would be "bad."

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(1) Israel was the Northern Kingdom, with its capital in Samaria. Its kings were all unfaithful to God.

Judah was the Southern Kingdom, with its capital in Jerusalem. Almost half its rulers remained somewhat faithful to God; the others proved disobedient.

(2) 2 Timothy 3:16/NCV; (3) James 1:23-25/NLT; (4) Hebrews 4:12/NCV; (5) Hebrews 12:11/NLT