

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17**

Store In My Heart

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

The epistle from James is filled with wisdom that is certainly needed today. It is hard to settle on just one verse that gets this message across. This epistle was probably the first to be written after the death of Jesus. Many believe it was written by James, the Lord's brother, shortly after the events of Acts chapter 15.

No matter who or when its message of steadfastness in trial and dependence upon God's Word is one that instructs through the ages. Knowledge and trust without action is of no use. Our faith in God must move us to action based upon what He has revealed in His Word. Listen to James and do God's Will.



“Things Were Written Aforetime”

David Cox

"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).

There is no doubt that when Paul mentions the things "written aforetime" he is making reference to the Old Testament. Some have attempted to justify the authority of the Old Testament Scriptures by using this verse. However, if Paul had intended that the authority of the Old Testament is still in force today (in the Dispensation of Christ), then this verse would stand in direct contradiction to other passages of Scripture. For example, Paul writing to the Colossians spoke of Christ and the Old Testament, *"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross" (Colossians 2:14)*. Paul stated the purpose of the old law is *"to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24)*. In **vs. 25**, we read *"But after faith is come, we are no longer under a school-master."* It is clear that Paul was speaking of the old law being brought to an end which is in keeping with what Christ said about the old law as He lived on this earth (**Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:44**). Obviously, Paul never intended for this statement, in **Romans 15:4**, to be used to justify the authority of the Old Testament.

The question now is: "What exactly did Paul say about the use of the Old Testament?" He said it was for our learning so

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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Betty Ragsdale is still having pain in her back.

Brenda Keisler is still doing therapy and dealing with her pain issues.

Dottie Henderson is back home and doing well.

Let us all continue to remember our brethren in harm's way. Pray that God will give strength and courage to help.

Tonight we start in 2Samuel 19:1.

Wednesday we will start Colossians 4:2.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

that those who suffer for righteousness will have hope. Paul speaking to Felix, said, *"But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and the prophets: And have hope toward God which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust"* (**Acts 24:14-15**). Notice that Paul said he believed all that was written in the law and the prophets and he had hope as those before him had. As Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, etc. looked by faith to the coming promise of God, so did Paul and in **Romans 15:4**, Paul is saying so should we. Think of Job and Daniel suffering because of their having a trusting faith in God. This should admonish (comfort) us to live lives that will be acceptable to God, our Father. As we think of the promises given to Abraham and the faithfulness of God in fulfilling them, this should help us to recognize that God is not *"slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to usward..."* (**2Peter 3:9**). Men may say the world has not ended yet and they that desire to enjoy the pleasures of sin, may do so. But Paul is reminding us that the lessons of the Old Testament are invaluable to us as we live our lives by faith; trusting in the promises of God as those who did so in the days of long ago.

As **Romans 15:4** affirms, there are many lessons we can gain from the Old Testament that can give us comfort and hope. But Romans should never be used to try to give authority to Old Testament Scriptures to binding upon us who live in this Christian Dispensation.

(For almost two years now we have been studying the history of God's People in the promised land. In those studies we have seen their highs and lows. Time and again as we studied we were able to see lessons that are directly applicable to situations we find in our life today. We have seen how God dealt with them when they sought to please Him with their worship and service. We have also seen how He dealt with them when they did not please Him. We have seen these lessons on both the national and individual level. Such lessons are why we have these writings. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!