

For Our Instruction

“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).

I explained to the students that the test would come from the questions and answers I had given them in class. When the papers were all graded, one of the class members, who had failed to answer some of the questions appropriately, asked me this question. “Why do the all the questions have to have your answers?” My response, of course, was, “All the questions have to have my answers because this is my test!”

I went on to explain that I had discreetly chosen the questions based on what I thought would benefit the students. It was all for their instruction and assistance, not for their detriment or to satisfy my ego. On another level, there are times when we want to give our own answers to some spiritual issues. But all that has been recorded in the Scriptures, God’s answers for the issues of life, were written for our benefit.

The words of our text, “written for our learning,” might be rendered, “written for our instruction.” As we continue our meditations on the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, therefore, we must realize that the verses about the Tabernacle were “written for our instruction.” The further phrase in the text, “that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope,” reminds us that the Tabernacle teachings also exhort us to hopefully endure in our own experience.

A study of the Tabernacle instructs us concerning God’s interest in men! It is of extreme importance to understand that God initiates all redemptive work in the lives of people. The Tabernacle illustrates this truth, for it was not a movement on the part of the children of Israel to get to God. Rather, showing His gracious interest in and mercy for His people, God moved in their direction and spoke of a way of redemption and worship.

A study of the Tabernacle instructs us concerning God’s illumination to men! Not only did the great God of heaven show interest in His people by speaking of a way to approach Him, but He also gave light concerning the construction of this sanctuary. He did not leave Moses groping in human ingenuity, but revealed to him the details for the entire framework and superstructure. It is true, dear heart, that in His light, “. . . shall we see light” (Psalm 36:9).

A study of the Tabernacle instructs us concerning God’s intimacy with men! His explanation to Moses about the sanctuary was, “I will meet you, to speak there unto thee” (Exodus 29:42). Regarding the people, He declared, “And there I will meet with the children of Israel” (Exo. 29:43). In addition to this, He said, “And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God” (Exo. 29:45). Oh, may we understand His desire to fellowship with His redeemed ones.

