

Assignment 12.1

Arthur Hay

The father

If the man had done so much Bible Study how could he have not been prompted or led by the Holy Spirit? Or if he had decided from the outset never to believe why waste so much time studying what he thought was an anathema, unless he had chosen to study literature in which case why did he not study Shakespeare instead?

He knows the facts, but might not believe them, and will be able to teach scripture to his daughter as a new believer, but his rejection of God means he just has knowledge. I know in Soviet Russia some communist authorities studied parts of the Bible so they could take on believers and try to catch them out. This also reminds me of my chaplain at senior school, I think he was at least a believer of some sort but he was reputed to be in the ministry for a trade rather than a calling and I know a true Christian on the staff could see through him, it is also a bit like I remember Pastor Phil saying there are versions of the Bible that have been translated by atheists.

When he faces the Lord on the Day of Judgement he will have no excuse, he will have known all the facts and chose to ignore them.

The Mother

She probably went for her MA because she already knew the Lord and wanted to know more as well as be in a position to help others in their walks. She would know and believe John 3:16 but would also know the story behind it, why God had to send His son and what that would have meant for him to do so, and for Jesus with His suffering. Dad might know the facts but Mum would be in a better position to explain them. Excellent point, Arthur.

The Daughter

She would have learnt quite a bit from her parents, more so her mother as her father would have seen it as his work and how many fathers talk much about work with their children, and knowledge would have also rubbed off from other Christians. She would have accepted the Lord by faith and as she grows in her knowledge of the

Lord would come to understand John 3:16, and as she matured in her faith she would one day have the same level of understanding as her mother. If she gets to the level of her Father's knowledge she would know and understand so much more than him because she would have faith as well.

2. Psalm 51:1-10, Confession

The passage highlights God's mercy and compassion, while God can not stand sin we are unacceptable to Him but His love for us and His mercy make Him desire us, if only we could be without sin so we could be acceptable to Him.

Sin comes across as a regrettable condition that we can do nothing about, we were conceived in it, verse 5, as we are descendants of sinners we were in a state of sin to start with. We can ask God to clean us and look the other way but we cannot eradicate it from ourselves, just have it reduced within us although we will continue to sin. Our sin is against God.

We can try not to sin and focus on God and ask Him to keep us clean, but this side of eternity we know that sometime in the future we are going to "stuff up" again. The enemy prowls around, how many good preachers who have led many to the Lord have been brought down by adultery?

We all need the Lord's help, any of us can unwittingly switch off from God and do a bad thing, it is not until we realise what we have done that we suddenly regret it and realise our consciousness was switched off, David was caught up by lust and covering up, and it took Nathan to confront him before he realised just how evil he had been.

Despite all this God wants the absolute best of us and we can want the absolute best of ourselves for God, but it does not always work out. David felt very ashamed and almost wanted to be punished for his sins, and desired to be made clean again, restored to his former self. He was a man after God's heart and tried to remain pure and spotless. David acknowledges God's kindness, God knows everything and we can hide nothing from Him.

In eternity it is nice to know that our sins will be forgotten, we will be able to have a clean mind and clean heart.

Arthur, you've chosen this scripture to write about, and in doing so have done a good, clear and concise job. Well done!