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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

Article Title:

BEFORE ALL ELSE FAILS

We recently bought a stand for our television and other components which required assembly. Like most men, I begin to assemble the various pieces without first reading the directions. Initially it seemed so simple. Yet, as I progressed I begin to discover that it was much more complicated than I thought. When you have pieces left over that should not be left over you realize the importance of reading the directions. As the old saying goes, “If all else fails, read the directions.” Though that sounds good when you have failed it’s too late to then read the directions. It is better to work on the premise “**BEFORE** all else fails, read the directions.”

The Bible is the revelation of God’s plan for man’s salvation from sin. It contains the necessary directions for properly responding to God’s offer of forgiveness through the blood of Jesus (Matthew 26:28; Romans 1:16-17). The book of Psalms tells us that God’s word is “a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105). No one has it within his or her ability, apart from God’s Word, to know the way of salvation. What the prophet said long ago is still true, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. (Jeremiah 10:23). Saving faith is produced only through the hearing of the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Each of us need to “read the directions” if we hope to have eternal salvation.

The ultimate spiritual failure is the loss of one’s soul in the eternal punishment of the devil’s hell (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). The tragedy of such a loss is compounded by the fact that God has given both the means and ample opportunity to escape hell. Any person who desires salvation from hell can obtain it by learning and following God’s directions. “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:11-12). In this it is absolutely essential that one read God’s directions **BEFORE all else fails**, for when death or the Lord comes one’s eternal destiny is sealed and there are no second chances. “Behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

God’s directions for salvation are easily found and understood by those with a willing mind. Jesus said, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Dear reader, are you reading God’s directions **BEFORE all else fails?**