

John 5:39

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

I'm not sure if everyone knows this, but I am a published author. Now, what if I told you that in the pages of the book that I wrote, are the winning Lotto numbers for the last day of this year. But in order to find those winning numbers, you would have to read the book.

"Well, why not just tell me the winning numbers?" You may be thinking.

My response would be, *"Why would I want to tell you the winning numbers, and deprive you of the joy of finding them for yourself in the book that I wrote?"*

Now, the first statement I made is true, I really did write a book that is published. But my second statement is not true, it does not contain the winning Lotto numbers ... at least, not as far as I know lol.

But what if the second statement that "you could find the winning Lotto numbers for the end of this year in a book" was true, not my book, but another book? Would we go out and buy that book? When we did, would we read it throughout the year and search for the winning Lotto numbers that are contained in it, wanting to find these hidden gems, or would we wait until December, the last month of the year to start reading it? Would we tell others about the book and what was in it, or hoard it all for ourselves not telling others, not even our close friends and family?

I think you know by now where I am going with this, and that's to encourage us all to read the bible all year, searching out hidden gems of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, heaven, wisdom and eternal life, with all those intimate things we get to learn about our Savior Jesus and Father God.

With all this in mind, read Jesus words again when He said:

† ***You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.***

Now, let's focus on the first four words that Jesus just said: "***You search the Scriptures***". I know I try to encourage all to read through the bible, and we all hear from the pulpit that we need to read our bibles every day. So, maybe it's time for us to start going beyond just reading our bible everyday, and take it even deeper.

Sure, anyone can read a book, but reading that book is just the beginning of things. Think back to when we were kids and went to school. Didn't we have school books that we had to read and

study in order to learn? We had a math book that taught us math, science books that taught us science, history books that taught us the history of the USA and other countries. And we didn't just read them, we had to study them to learn from them. Also, included in them were tests that we had to take to show us what we learned. So, what if we did that with the bible, not just reading it, but studying it and applying it to our lives every day?

Just think, if you never learned math, simple math, and you owned your own business, your accountant would rob you blind, and you wouldn't even know it, because he knows math and you don't. This reminds me of what Jesus said.

† **John 10:10** *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

The thief is the devil, and he does not want us to study the bible and search the scriptures, because even he knows that the bible has the words of eternal life and that the words in the bible testify of Jesus; Therefore he doesn't want us to study our bible, or even read it. But Jesus knows that if we do search the scriptures (the bible) and read it, that we "*may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*"

Both my wife and I have this game on our iPads, and in the midst of the game, there is a smaller game with a mine, where you dig for gold, silver, platinum, gems, and even old artifacts. We both love it because it's fun. But it's only a game for entertainment.

Yet the bible also has hidden gems of wisdom and knowledge and understanding and guidance and so many other treasures contained in it, that go way beyond a game, but is actually things that are life changers, for the better.

So are you ready to join me this year in our quest for hidden treasures contained in God's word? If you are, then get your spiritual pick ax and shovel out and start searching the scriptures.

† **Deuteronomy 4:29** *But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.*

† **Matthew 6:19-21 (MSG)** *"Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.*

† **Job 28:17 (NLT2)** *Wisdom is more valuable than gold and crystal. It cannot be purchased with jewels mounted in fine gold.*