

GETTING A GRIP ON LIFE!

Ephesians 6:10-18

INTRODUCTION: Zoologists use big words in taxonomy to try to explain their theories of how life came into being and to tell us how mankind came into being. But just because someone can use big words does not make them smart in God's eyes. Romans 1:22. We are classified in the Order of Primates along with monkeys, apes, chimpanzees, gorillas, marmosets and many other creatures that share some physical similarities.

I. OPPOSABLE THUMBS!

Today we will be looking at one of those similarities that is opposable thumbs! Our hands are given to us with opposable thumbs so we can get a grip in life. Psalm 139:14-16. Our God has also given us His Word so we can get a good grip on life: 2 Peter 1:3-4. Today I really want to talk to you not about getting a grip in life but rather about getting a grip on life. The ability to answer life's deepest questions with satisfying and truthful answers, to live a life of meaning and purpose knowing that our sins have been forgiven and we have eternal life gives us a grip on life. There are ten Christian principles that we need to get a firmer grip on life.

II. OUR RIGHT OPPOSABLE THUMB: BIBLE STUDY!

First we will look at Bible study as our right opposable thumb: Psalm 119:50; Philippians 2:16; John 6:63; John 6:68. The Bible was given to mankind as a gift from our God. 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:15-17. Our Bible is not like other books. The Bible is not only alive, but it gives life to those who read it and put it into practice in their lives: Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23. We learn Who we are to worship and how we are to worship in the Word of God: Exodus 20:1-7; 1 Chronicles 16:23-31; John 4:23-24. We learn in the New Testament how we are to give to the Lord's work: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 6:38. We learn from the Word of God how to serve the Lord we love: Galatians 5:13; Colossians 3:23-25; Hebrews 6:10; Hebrews 12:28-29. It is through the Bible that we learn the content of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 10:9-10, 13; John 1:12-13. The Bible tells us how to live in order to know and do our God's will: Romans 12:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Psalm 119:9-11; 2 Timothy 2:15; John 17:17; Hosea 4:6.

III. OUR LEFT OPPOSABLE THUMB: PRAYER!

Second we will look at prayer as our left opposable thumb in getting a grip on life. Prayer is the source of God's counsel, comfort and guidance for each of us. Romans 8:15-16; Hebrews 4:16; Philippians 4:6-7. We get God's wisdom through prayer; James 1:5. A study of the Bible is our right opposable thumb and the practice of prayer is our left opposable thumb. Next week we will look closely at the other eight Christian disciplines that are all dependent on the Word of God and prayer for their proper utilization.