

EVERY WORD
Matthew 4:4
By Raymond White

Occasionally, when I'm discussing some obscure verse in the Bible with a fellow believer, I'll draw this objection: "Does that pertain to your salvation?"

That indignant shot rankles me whenever I hear it because it implies that some parts of the scriptures are critically important and other parts are not important at all, nuisance verses that can be and should be ignored because they "don't pertain to our salvation." I'd like to know who is the judge of that — which words pertain and which don't pertain to our salvation.

Another ploy to ignore scripture is: "We shouldn't dwell on mysteries," implying that if some parts of the scripture are difficult to understand, we shouldn't be spending our time on it because those "mysteries" which will only confuse and disturb us and might even be dangerous.

I couldn't disagree more with those lame excuses to justify ignorance, and Jesus, I believe, agrees with me.

***Matthew 4:4** But he [Jesus] answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

Notice the word "every." That denies us the right to pick and choose. So, does a particular obscure verse pertain to your salvation? That is the wrong question. The right question is, does God want you to struggle to understand it? And the answer to that is, yes. Paul, I think, agrees with that.

***Acts 20:27** For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*

Notice the word "all." Anything that God had to say, Paul was interested in, and he was not tightfisted with his message. And neither was Ezra.

***Nehemiah 8:3** And he [Ezra] read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. That is, they didn't fall asleep. :5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: Now, that's respect. :8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.*

The word of God is to be cherished — all of it. People have died for God's word so that we could have it. William Tyndale comes to mind. But he is only one of many who gave their lives so that the word of God would survive and thrive.

All of it. That's how much of it you should reverence.