



## The Road Less Traveled By -pastor Jerry

What if you could use this “down time” to grow closer to God and grow up in Christ? “I own 5 bars of soap” said a filthy fellow. I’m discovering anew how much a “claimed” faith is unrelated to a faith that has claimed me. Every day 168,000 Bibles are sold or given to others in the United States – most remain unopened. According to Barna’s Bible Engagement Profile only 24% of American Christians interact with the Bible regularly in ways that transform their relationship with God and others. I doubt that owning a Bible makes you Christian.

When God’s Word is lost to a nation and a people...

2 Kings 22:10-13, Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king. When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. He gave orders to “Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us.”

The found book was likely Deuteronomy which Jesus often quoted. It’s an “aha” moment for king Josiah and can be for us, too. Many friends struggle with the idea that God can be angry. Some, reading this Scripture, downplayed or dismissed it. Digging a little deeper we find the Hebrew is: “he-ma Yahweh” (הֵמָּה יְהוָה) – the LORD’s hot displeasure, anger, wrath.

If I wrote my son or daughter instructions on how to live and they ignored them, came into a time of trouble as Judah did, and then cried out to me for help – I would be “he-ma,” angry. Of course, I’d still love them and would do my best to help. But, my “wrath” would be against the foolishness of choosing a thorny path when I’d cleared another way.

Robert Frost penned this poignant truth: “I shall be telling this with a sigh, Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.”

What do you know of God’s Word? Are you engaged enough to take the road less traveled by? My hope is that we can all use this “down time” to grow closer to God, grow up in Christ, and move the needle on that Barna survey in a God honoring direction.