

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Books

"Some books are undeservedly forgotten; none are undeservedly remembered." – W. H. Auden

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested."
– Francis Bacon

"Books are not men and yet they are alive." – Stephen Vincent Benet

"The best effect of any book is that it excites the reader to self-activity." – Thomas Carlyle

"A good book has no ending." – R.D. Cumming

One of the greatest gifts we receive in this life is when we receive an education and learn how to read. Realizing that man has written nearly 130 million books, there is an abundance of material for us to read.

But a word of caution is in order, for not every book written is worthy of our time. The old adage, "Garbage in, garbage out," still holds true in the realm of books.

If you are cautious and selective, you can greatly enhance your knowledge and scope of life. But of course not all books were written to inform. Many are written for entertainment. Even in fiction, God has blessed us with a great imagination. As long as we are careful to separate fact from fiction, we can enjoy what man has to offer.

In the realm of religious books, again a word of caution is in order. While the author may have good intentions, he or she may offer material that actually contradicts God's Word. The Bible must be the standard in determining truth and error. If you can distinguish right from wrong, you still can derive some benefit from books that contain error. But if you cannot separate truth from error, then books written, even with the best of intent, could sway you in a direction away from God. So yes, great caution is in order.

Many individuals today have personal libraries. The resources can indeed be a tremendous blessing. And the access to libraries across the world via the internet is amazing to say the least.

Think of the vast blessings that we have achieved through books. The Dictionary is an extremely valuable tool, as well as a Thesaurus. Encyclopedias, particularly biblical ones, have proved a valuable asset. And what of the concordance? and lexicons? And even insightful books written by faithful Christians!

If handled properly, books can indeed be one of the great blessings we enjoy in this life. Some people even became Christians because they read something that motivated them to learn more of God's will for their lives!

And of course, the greatest collection of books, the Bible. We thank God for this inexhaustible treasure!