

Overshadowed Truths

(2 Timothy 2:15)

- Introduction:
1. Sometimes it is possible that something of great value is within our grasp, but we fail to realize it because we are distracted by something else.
 2. Such is also the case with reference to God's word.
 3. Sometimes, we address certain passages in a way that we miss truths of great value.
 4. In this lesson, we will examine three such passages.

I. The Thief on the Cross

- A. (Luke 23:26-43).
- B. What comes to mind when I say, "The thief on the cross?"
- C. For many, it's a debate about the necessity of baptism.
- D. However, do you think that within the context of this passage, that was the intent of the passage?
- E. Was this passage intended to be a "puzzle piece" in a debate about baptism?
- F. Rather, would you not agree that the thief on the cross is a lesson about the scope of God's love?
- G. From this passage, I learn of the depth and scope of God's love and it gives me hope!

II. Jesus Turning Water to Wine

- A. (John 2:1-12).
- B. Frequently, when we speak of this passage, it leads to an argument about the nature of the "wine" Jesus made and shared with the wedding guests.
- C. However, do you think this passage was preserved for us to provide us with leverage in a debate as to whether we should or should not drink alcohol?
- D. Instead, do you think this passage is recorded to provide evidence that Jesus was indeed, the Son of God?
- E. This was the first of many proofs that would validate his claims.
- F. Furthermore, we should be amazed by the power of God.

III. The Divine Longsuffering of God

- A. (1 Peter 3:18-21).
- B. Again, frequently this passage leads to a discussion as to when and how Jesus preached to "spirits in prison."
- C. But in our attempt to explain this passage, we overlook this powerful statement about the "divine longsuffering."
- D. Think how patient God was with a people whose every thought and imagination was wicked continuously!
- E. Such longsuffering gives me hope and assurance that God hasn't given up on me.

- Conclusion:
1. May we give greater care to read and meditate upon the word of God.
 2. Countless rich and comforting truths are awaiting to be discovered.