

MESSAGE #1 BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE OF THIS STUDY

Biblical Passages: Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 10:11, Matthew 5:17-18
Acts 26:27, et al

I. Introducing the Subject

I have been asked many times why we should study the Old Testament before we have completely mastered the New Testament. The point is answered on two lines: 1) a snide answer: no one has ever completely mastered the New Testament and 2) a honest, kindly answer: the Old Testament is foundational to the New Testament. If one doubts that then one needs merely to see how often the Old Testament is quoted in the New Testament as the authoritative word for what is being taught. Every New Testament writer makes profound use of the Old Testament and such statements as "The New is in the Old concealed, the Old is in the New revealed" may not fully make the case they do give us a sense of the importance of the Old Testament as a preparatory document and followed by the New Testament as a revelatory document. But we cannot in this study develop this apologetic much farther as we will look at some of the matters suggested in our texts.

II. Discussion

- A. "The things written beforehand" is the Pauline formula from Romans 15:4 are written for our benefit and you will need to look at the blessing that comes from them
- B. "These things are an example" says Paul in addressing the church at Corinth (1 Cor 10:11) and by them we are directed in ways that please or displease God.
- C. These are reinforced by such passages as 1 Timothy 3:14 and the reference speaking of the things he had learned as a child.
- D. And when we come to the ministry of the Lord we find that He uses the Old Testament to identify Himself, illustrate His teaching, refute His enemies and encourage His disciples. Seeing how the Lord Jesus made use of this material should encourage us to follow His example.