



Recently, rioters in Portland, Oregon not only injured people and destroyed property, but they also burned American flags and Bibles. The person who burns Bibles is sending a clear message: “This book is evil and I despise it. No one should read it. It should be reduced to ashes.” In the days of Jeremiah, King Jehoiakim had the sacred scroll burned because it pronounced judgment against him and his people (*Jer. 36:20-24*). The evil Greek ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes, burned copies of the Scriptures and killed Jews who possessed these holy writings. The Roman ruler Diocletian ordered the burning of every copy of the Bible. Popes tried to suppress the English Bible in the common vernacular. In the 16th century, Tyndale’s translation was outlawed and thousands of copies were burned.

Burning the Bible, while despicable, is not commonly practiced today, but **spurning the Bible** is done all the time. To “spurn” means “to reject with disdain or contempt.” Our society has spurned the Biblical teaching on marriage, totally rejecting God’s definition of this sacred institution. People reject with disdain and contempt the Bible’s teaching on sexual behavior, allowing for homosexuality and other deviant practices. The Bible’s clear teaching on gender distinctions is scorned, as well as God’s teaching on the role of men and women. The Bible’s creation account is mocked as men embrace foolish evolutionary theories such as “nothing exploded resulting in everything.” Proud man denies His Creator and cries out, “He made me not!” (*Isa. 29:16*).

Most importantly, God’s way of salvation is spurned as haughty men refuse to acknowledge their sinfulness, and reject with disdain the fact that God has provided but one way of salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ. The Gospel message is tragically spurned as men and women reject God’s only solution. We may not **burn** Bibles, but do we **spurn** God’s truth in any way?

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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