

Illiteracy and Error

There she stood, in her kitchen, feeling foolish. She was intelligent but illiterate. She had always done her shopping by looking at the pictures on the cans and jars at the supermarket. One day she bought a can of fried chicken - she thought. The picture on the label of the large can showed beautiful fried chicken. Inside was Crisco!

Illiteracy is usually more serious than that simple episode. But biblical illiteracy is even more terrible. In his new book *The Index of Leading Spiritual Indicators*, church researcher George Barna points out that 89% of Americans say that religion is an important part of their lives. Yet only 17% of adult Americans attend Sunday Bible classes.

Barna goes on to say that 38% believe that the entire Bible (including the Old Testament) was written decades after Jesus died; 44% believe that Jesus was a sinner; 66% have no idea what John 3:16 refers to; and similar number do not know the meaning of "gospel" or "Great Commission." 80% believed (incorrectly) that the phrase "God helps those who help themselves" is in the Bible, and 10% believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife.

Because eternity is at stake, biblical illiteracy is even more dangerous than linguistic illiteracy. If we are to ever reach people with God's loving truth, we as Christians must know those truths ourselves. And if we are to ever make a difference in the lives of others, we must share those truths. Be in the Book daily looking for God's precious answers and glorious blessings. Happy hunting!

Love, Ray

(Adapted from Keynoter bulletin, Little Rock Arkansas)