

## Classic Christianity

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### Sample Interview with Editors of Newly Republished Devotional Books:

#### **Classic Christianity, A Year of Timeless Devotions, Vols. I and II**

*As believers, we know we should be in the Word daily, but we all struggle to follow through.*

*A newly released second edition of Classic Christianity, A Year of Timeless Devotions is a convenient and effective tool to assist people in reading, understanding and applying Scripture to their daily lives.*

Cara Shelton and Patricia Ediger, editors of the newly released devotional books: *Classic Christianity, A year of Timeless Devotions*, are with us to talk about the problem of Biblical illiteracy among believers today and offer a plan to make learning the Word of God interesting and effective.

Q: Welcome Cara and Patricia, we're delighted to be able to talk to you about this surprising and troubling problem in the church. Let's get right into the issue. Why do you feel that there is Scriptural Illiteracy among believers?

P: Research from several sources give us some amazing facts. For instance, my sister Cara and I learned that nine out of ten homes in America have a Bible, but only 16% of Christians polled said they read their Bible daily, and 25% don't read their Bible at all. We think that that fact alone explains why only 4% of American have a Biblical worldview. And that worldview covers only the basics of Christian belief, like "Did Jesus live a sinless life? Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings? Is God the all-powerful creator of the universe and does He still rule it today?" How can people know the answers to eternal questions if they don't read and understand the Holy Word of God?

C: When we live in a generation that is spiritually and biblically illiterate, it creates a vacuum for false teaching and heresy to creep in. We believe we are seeing the fruit of that today, both in our churches and in society.

Q: Well then, why do you think people aren't reading their bibles?

P: The number one reason people give is that they are too busy. But when 80% say that the Bible is confusing and too hard to understand, then we have a real

spiritual maturity problem. People don't realize that research shows daily Bible reading to be the number one predictor of spiritual maturity.

C: And beyond that, there are other critical reasons that reading the Bible is important.

Q: And what are those reasons?

P:

- Well, first of all, it's commanded. II Timothy tells us to rightly divide the word of God.
- Also it leads to salvation. Romans tells us "...it is the power of salvation to everyone that believes."
- It's given to us directly from God. II Timothy tells us that All scripture is given by inspiration of God.
- Here's another important one – it's a strong weapon in Spiritual Warfare. Ephesians calls Scripture the "sword of the spirit, which is the word of God." Scripture is the ONLY offensive weapon listed among the armor of God – it is strong and mighty, but we must be able to wield it.

C: Knowing the Bible is also a protection against false doctrine. When a bank teller is in training, for instance, he or she studies real currency for weeks, so that when a counterfeit comes along they recognize that it's not real and true. – It's the same for us.

Q. How do your books address this?

C: Our grandfather used to say, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. - - But you sure can salt the oats!" - - By including in each day's devotion a scripture reading, key verses to focus on, and sound biblical teaching on those verses, all written in an interesting way, people learn to understand what they are reading and to desire that time in study and worship more and more. There is teaching on nearly every book of the Bible, so it's very complete. It's a simple plan and an effective one.

Q: How did your books come about?

C: We actually discovered a box of our grandfather's sermons in our mother's attic. They were so timely, yet had been written in the years of 1914-1965. We were shocked. People were worried about impending war, financial instability, and the state of the world at that time – really the same things that concern us today.

Q: Was your grandfather a pastor?

P: Yes, our Papa was the Rev. L.A. Meade, an internationally known evangelist, pastor, and founder of churches. He founded Lake Isabella First Baptist Church right here in California, in fact. As a young man, he left home and ice-skated to McMaster's University in Toronto to attend seminary. He saw the entire United States as his mission field, and since it was the early 1900's, there was no TV or radio. If he wanted to spread the gospel, he literally had to GO. So he did. He had a donated 3000 person tent, 2500 folding chairs shipped by rail to whichever community called him.

Q: How did he know where to go next?

P: That was so interesting to us, too! All the ministers in a community, every denomination together, would unite to call him to evangelize their area and he would spend three to four weeks in each location. Every evening they had special revival services, children's meetings, music school, and youth groups. Then, after the meetings were over, each church would then each take a portion of the hundreds and sometimes thousands of newly saved people to disciple.

C: We include many of the historical letters commending his work in these revival meetings, as well as pictures and newspaper articles, in the back of Volume 2. They are fascinating!

Q: So these writings you found were the source for the actual devotions in the books?

P: Yes. We edited each study or sermon into the daily devotions that form the teaching in these volumes. These words brought people from miles around to hear them live, and now we felt compelled to make sure they were shared with the believers of today.

Q: Who would benefit from reading these books?

C. The teaching is deep and weighty enough for pastors, challenging for long-time Christians, yet non-Christians will find a clear presentation of the gospel with an invitation to come to Christ. And it's perfect for family devotions since it's full of stories and illustrations that make the teaching memorable and enjoyable.

Q: How can people feel secure that the book is theologically sound?

P: Our initial publisher, a division of Lifeway, had a theological review board that passed the books without a single revision. We also have stacks of letters of

recommendations for our Grandfather from many denominations and communities across the nation. Finally, each of us have letters of recommendation we will send to anyone interested in booking us for a speaking engagement or book signing.

Q: Where can your books be purchased?

C: We would love to have you visit our website at [www.classicchristianity.net](http://www.classicchristianity.net) - where you can purchase the books. They are also available on amazon, and of course you can inquire at your local bookstore. If it's not on the shelf yet, they can order it for you.

Q: Are you available to speak, or for book signings?

C: We love to serve churches, women's groups, retreats, luncheons, and Sunday School classes, and we are experienced in speaking at conventions as well. We can be reached at [Classicchristianity@gmail.com](mailto:Classicchristianity@gmail.com) and are happy to help where we can. Our Papa's motto was, "Saving souls, mending lives, and helping people to find their purpose in Christ," and that is our desire as well. We believe these books help to do just that.

Q: Patricia and Cara, thank you for joining us today. It's been very interesting and informative!

P: And thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our new books, and a little about Biblical illiteracy with your audience today!