



CHECKING YOUR INSULATION

ALAN BURTIN

You might be wondering what an article pertaining to insulation is doing posted on a Morning Star Studies website and your question would have merit. Continue to read on and hopefully the answer should be revealed.

The central part of the United States experiences some of the coldest weather seen in the past fifty years which has caused billions of dollars of damage, loss of public services and even loss of life. Those people who experienced these major winter arctic storms learned a lot about their homes and the vulnerability that existed within their home that allowed the cold winter temperatures and the frigid winds to attack unprotected pipes and penetrate around windows. These outside forces of arctic temperatures and winds, both invisible to the human eye, caused a major negative impact to lives, how they lived, how they functioned and how they reacted.

Bottom Line: Had the proper amount of insulation been present in people's homes before the arctic storm, the impact of the storm's damage would have diminished greatly or even been eliminated.

So, what is an article about insulation doing on a biblical studies website like Morning Star Studies? The answer is that insulation is needed for people just as much or more than it is needed for inanimate objects, like our homes.

1 John 2:15 states, *"Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."* It's interesting that most people don't think about the world's influences that creep into their lives. Also, it's interesting that most people don't realize that Satan hides in plain sight through symbols, universities, organizations, political narratives, false doctrines and deceptions he imbeds in movies, television or print. All these deceptions make people believe that we are in control of creation and the power over it, just like he did with Eve in the garden. He doesn't have to be subversive or covert in his actions because of the love people have for power and the world system. Our society gladly joins the messaging of Satan because there is little or no insulation wrapped around our thoughts, words or actions.

The dictionary has several definitions for insulation. A couple of these definitions are 1) the act of insulating or the state of being insulated and 2) the act of insulating or detaching from other objects. Unlike houses that get attacked by the cold only in the winter, human beings, God's creation, are attacked every day by internal and external forces. Some of these forces are "seen" but in most cases it is the "unseen" that cause the most damage, like the cold temperatures and wind. Just like the pipes in our homes, when left un-insulated, the worldly unseen forces (sin) can cause disruption and destruction. That is why it is important to talk about how much insulation we have to protect against the disruption and destruction that sin causes in our lives.

What do we do to battle against Satan's worldly influences and keep ourselves insulated from them?

First, instead of drawing near to the deceptions of Satan, we need to draw near to the truth of God's

Word. It all starts with daily choices. This drawing near to God's Word can be accomplished several ways.

First is choosing to spend time reading the bible daily. If you don't know where to start, get a good daily devotional book that gets you into God's Word. Spend time reading the scripture verses referenced by your daily devotional and ask God to show you how those verses relate to you or what may be going on in your life. Be intentional with spending time in God's Word daily. Create a habit of spending time each day with God and see if the world's messaging doesn't become dimmer and dimmer. Select a time of the day in which you can have the best chance of reading scripture uninterrupted; a place where you are alone with God; a place where you can listen to what He is telling you.

Secondly, make a commitment to connect with other believers. When doing a "post-freeze" examination of a broken water pipe, most homeowners find that the pipe was isolated in an unprotected, cold dark exterior wall next to the worldly forces that caused it to break. Similarly, there are countless people who have isolated themselves during the pandemic of 2020 and 2021 without the insulation necessary to help keep them spiritual healthy and protected. John 10:10 says in part, that *"the thief (Satan) comes only to steal, kill and destroy."* One of the best ways that he executes this plan is to first "isolate" people.

Like a stray isolated sheep, we're more vulnerable for Satan to do his work, when we are away from the herd. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us to *"encourage one another in love and good deeds, not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."*

If you have not been attending church or bible study, you have not only created a habit that makes Satan smile, but you are exposing your un-insulated thoughts, desires and actions to the worldly influences that possibly cause us to break by buying into its messaging or succumbing to the worldly pressures. Break your bad habit of isolation and "choose" to re-connect with other believers who can encourage, minister and pray for you.

Insulation can also come in the form of another person. Often God places other believers in our life to specifically help us through a difficult time or to simply be there when we need them. Accountability partners are important to give us a realistic perspective of what we may be going through and keep us focused on the truth of scripture and how it should be applied to our lives. If you have someone in your life that you trust to be honest and respectful of you, don't hesitate to ask them if they would partner with you to study God's Word so that you can draw closer to Him and know His Will for your life.

Realize that when you are seeking His Will and asking Him to insulate you from worldly influences that are not God honoring, He may convict you to change some things. These changes could be in the form of new friends, a new significant other, new habits, a new job or even re-location. Galatians 1:3-4 tells us this. *"Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father."* If you sincerely desire to be insulated and protected against the worldly influences of evil, God will do whatever He has to do in order to rescue you.

Insulation is important both for physical and spiritual reasons. Temperature extremes and environmental elements make us assess the effectiveness of our home insulation. Fortunately, those temperature extremes don't happen all the time. However, the spiritual and emotional parts of our

existence don't get off that easy, because we are under attack everyday by those invisible forces intended to break or destroy our communion with God. When those invisible forces attack, it is imperative that we have accepted and installed the spiritual and emotional insulation in our lives provided by our loving God.

So, check your insulation inventory list to see if you're vulnerable to the worldly evil elements that Satan uses to distract or destroy your focus on where God wants it to be. To what degree are you following God's insulation checklist for protection? For every question below that you can give a positive "yes" answer, award yourself 20 points. At the end of the five questions total your score to see what grade you gave yourself. If it is not the score you had hoped for, remember we have a loving, forgiving God who wants you to draw closer to Him. Hopefully the questions, below, will help you do that.

_____ Are you in Gods' Word every day, devoting a quiet time to read, pray and learn God's will for you?

_____ Are you assembling weekly with fellow-believers to praise God and hear His Word?

_____ Are you connecting with other believers regularly through bible study, life groups, Sunday School classes or other ministry opportunities?

_____ Do you have an accountability partner to help you stay on course by following God's Word?

_____ Are you listening to God, after reading His Word, hearing His message given by a pastor, or being prompted by the Holy Spirit or are you proclaiming yourself as the "chief insulator?"

_____ Total Score