

## THE WORD OF GOD, Part One – October 4, 2020

What's the most important thing in your life? if you could have just one thing, what would it be? Would it be physical food? Would it be good health? Would it be having a good family? Would it be good relationships? Would it be having a good education? - All these things are good, and some are essential, but what's most important in your life is God's word, and specifically having His word in your heart, for God's word, which is His truth, is the key to all that God has for you, and wants to do in your life.

Here are some verses that show us how God's word is of supreme importance:

- Matt. 4:4 - *"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."*
- Psalm 1:2-3 - *"His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law He meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its future in season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers."* Josh. 1:8
- Jer. 23:29 - *"Is not My word like fire?" ... "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"*
- Psalm 119:72 - *"The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces."*
- Matt. 24:25 - *"Heaven and earth will pass away but My words will never pass away."*
- Eph. 6:18 - *"The sword of the Spirit is the word of God."*
- John 17:17 - *"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."*
- 2 Tim. 3:16-17 - *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*
- 2 Tim. 4:1-2 - *"I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom, preach the word."*
- Neh. 8:7-8 - *"Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah.... And the Levites, explained the law to the people, while the people remained in their place. They read from the book of the law of God, translating (it) to give the sense so that the people understood the reading."*
- 1 Peter 2:2 - *"Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation."*

We should be so thankful that God has given us His word, and that He had it written down so we could read it. It didn't come in a video, in a you-tube format, nor was it written in the skies above us. It was His word written down in a book.

- And it was written from the time of Moses in about 1450BC, to the time of the Apostle John, in about 90AD. And it has been passed down to us thru all the centuries.
- And I'm sure every one of you have a copy of God's word, which we call the Bible; and you can read it yourself, and it's the single most important thing you can read.

Well, what can we say about God's word?

- God's word is inerrant, is perfect, it has no errors in its original manuscripts.
- God's word is precise, is clear, is not confusing about what God wants us to know.
- God's word is understandable, it's written in a way that the average person can read it and know what it is saying.

God's word is complete - it contains everything God wants you to know about how you can have a relationship with Him, and how you're to live for Him during your life on earth. Indeed, God's word is sufficient. You don't need anything else, for it tells you all that you need to know about how you can be and do what He wants you to be and do.

- God's word is relevant, it relates to what you yourself are going through. It helps you personally, relationally, emotionally, spiritually, and to just live your day to day life.

God's word is consistent. For example, the truths in it about God or Christ or salvation that are written in the Old Testament are in agreement with what you find in the New Testament. This means that there are no contradictions in the Bible.

- Now you shouldn't take a verse out of context, out of the context of that passage, for Psalm 119:160 says, "*the sum of Thy word is truth,*" which means you understand the truth of a verse in light of the truth of that entire passage, and in light of the truth of the whole Bible. For example, when I study a particular verse in prophecy, I always look at parallel passages to understand what that particular verse means.

God's word is historical. It tells us what God wants you to know about how He has dealt with and worked with believers and unbelievers and nations in the past, and it's important that we learn from these historical accounts.

- God's word is prophetic, which means He tells us what He wants us to know about the future, and specifically that Christ is returning to set up His kingdom on earth.
- Well there's one more thing you need to know about God's word – and it's this, that in God's word there are truths you need to know, commands you need to obey, promises you need to believe, and warnings you need to heed.

Now I want to look at some passages that talk about God's word, and tell us its purpose, and how we're to think about His word, and learn from it, interact with it, and respond to it.

- Psalm 1. This Psalm talks about the words of men, and the words of God, and as Christians, we need to focus on the words of God, for when it comes to spiritual areas, the words of men, that is the words of non-Christians, are worthless, do you no good, and in fact, are harmful.

We read that you are to delight in God's word - you are to love it, and be excited about it. And you are to be meditating on it, to be thinking about it every day, and through the day. We can think about a lot of things in life, but what's most important is to be actively and regularly thinking about God's word. And the result of this is that you will be prosperous, you will be a successful Christian.

Psalm 19. This Psalm talks about general revelation and specific revelation. The phrase general revelation means that God reveals Himself through nature. Vss 1-3 - Romans 1:18-20. We see here that God reveals Himself through nature, through creation, through what He has made. People, in a general way, can see the power, the awesome of God as the Creator. And they can see God's divine nature, His beauty, and goodness, wisdom, intelligence, and order.

Then there's specific revelation, which is what we read about in Psalm 19:9-14. This means that God's word specifically tells us the truths He wants us to know. For example, the truth about God, that He's holy, just, sovereign, omniscient, truthful, merciful, forgiving, etc., is clearly spelled out in the Bible, but not in creation.

- The truth about how to be saved from sin is clearly explained in the Bible, not by sitting on the seashore, taking a walk in a park, or by looking up at the stars. Disc - word / world
- That's why we need the Bible, for it explains in very exact terms what we need to know about God, who we are, what Christ did for us, and how we are to live the Christian life.

Psalm 19:7-9. God's word is perfect, which means it's complete, whole, not missing anything - it's everything you need. And it's able to restore your soul, to encourage you when you are discouraged, to revive you when you are spiritually tired, to enable you to get going again for God after you have sinned against Him. Psalm 23

- Then we read that it is sure, it is firm, which means it's trustworthy, something you can really believe, can really trust. And it makes you wise. Apart from God, you are foolish, naïve and simpleminded, but it's God's word that gives you wisdom, that makes you wise in a spiritual way, and I am not talking about street smarts, I am not talking about worldly wisdom, I am talking about godly wisdom. Proverbs, children

Psalm 19:8. This says that God's word is right, is righteous, is straight, which means that when you follow God's word you are doing what's right, you're a righteous person, you are on the straight and narrow, and that results in joy, in being joyful, in being glad.

- It says God's word is pure, a word that literally means clean, innocent, and perfect. And when we live by God's word our eyes will be spiritually enlightened, we will have clear vision, we will know what is right, and how to live our lives. 1 John 1:5-7

Psalm 19:9. It says that the fear of the Lord is clean, is pure, which means that fearing God results in being holy and pure. Prov. 8:13

- It says that God's word is true, which means it is lasting, it is firm, it continues, and it's not going to change, and therefore, you can trust and depend on God's word.
- And God's word is righteous, is holy, and therefore, will make you righteous and holy.

Psalm 19:10. This tells you that God's word is more important than money. You can spend a lot of time making money, and can take lots of time shopping and spending money, but what's most important is being devoted to God's word. And if you love money more than God's word, then you won't spiritually grow like you should.

- It says God's word is more important than food. You can like food, and like how it tastes, but if you love food more than God's word, then you won't spiritually grow like you should. Matthew 4:4, Moses in the desert

Psalm 19:11. God's word warns us to do what is right, and if you don't take heed to it then you will fall into big trouble during this life – it may be relationally, financially, at your job, and for sure spiritually. And of course, if you don't believe what it says about how Christ died to pay for people's sins, then you will spend eternity in hell.

Psalm 19:12. In the context of this chapter, this is saying that God's word will help you live a holy life. John 17:17

- Now we can be in error, we can be doing the wrong thing, but God's word tells us the truth, and will help us live by the truth, and be doing what's right. John 8:31-32
- We can also have hidden faults, areas in our life that we don't know about, that are like blind spots, and it is God's word - and like the side mirror on a car, it can help you see your blind spots, your hidden faults and sins, and be holy.

Psalm 19:13. Then we read about presumptuous sins. The word presumptuous has to do with being proud, being arrogant. And oftentimes we presume, we think we can do whatever we want, and this includes sinning, doing what's wrong. But we're proud and presumptuous if we know something is wrong and go ahead and do it anyway.

- And if these kinds of sins become a habit in our life, then they rule over us, they control us, they enslave us. Prov. 5:22-23; Psalm 119:133, 119:104

Psalm 19:14. Here is a little prayer to the Lord, to God, to One who is our rock, our strength, and our Redeemer, our Savior.

- And we are to pray like this, for our words and meditations, for what we say and what we think to be acceptable to God. And this all relates to having God's word in our heart, and to be meditating on His word. And I can't say it strongly enough, that each one of us need to be meditating on God's word every day, and all day long. Psalm 119:9-16