

The Word of God.

The Importance of the Word

The most important information that we can receive as human beings is what our Creator has to say to us. What He has to say to us, and about us, is infinitely more important than what we have to say, either about Him or about ourselves, because, as Creator, and as one would logically expect, His Word will ultimately prevail. The ancient prophet Isaiah put it like this:

The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.
Isaiah 40.8

It is, therefore, very much in our own interest to hear ... to really hear ... what He has to say.

The Nature of the Word

Fortunately, God has spoken to the human race whom He has Created.

1. He has revealed himself through nature.

Psalm 19.1-2

1. The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
2. Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.

Romans 1.20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

2. He has revealed Himself through the written Word

2 Tim. 3.16 - 17

16. All Scripture is inspired by God

and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17. so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1.20 - 21

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation,
21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will,
but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

3. He has revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews.1.1-2

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
2 In these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things,
through whom also He made the world.

Our Response to the Word

At West End, we encourage three approaches to learning the Word of God.

1. Personal time in the Word.

We encourage everyone to set aside at least 30 minutes a day to study and meditate upon the Word of God. This is in addition to time spent in prayer.

Joshua 1.8

"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night,
so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it;
for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

2. Small group setting.

Christian Education classes are available each week for all age groups. The goal of this ministry is to provide systematic instruction in the Word for everyone, regardless of age or spiritual experience. Additionally, in 2008, a Bible survey course will be available on Sunday mornings prior to the worship service. This course will take participants through the entire Bible in one year.

3. Corporate worship setting.

At the Sunday morning worship service, approximately half of the time is spent in systematic consideration of the Word of God.

Knowledge is not enough!!

Scripture tells us that "... the demons also believe, and shudder." James 2.19

yet they are hardly in a right relationship with God!

God is calling us back into a right relationship with Himself. Hence the appeal of the apostle Paul:

"be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5.20

We are reconciled to God through believing and acting upon what God has said to us in His Word.

This involves repenting of our sin ... asking God to forgive us for our sins based upon Jesus' atoning death at Calvary, turning from our sins ... and yielding our lives to the authority of God.

Thereafter our lives are lived in obedience to God, based upon our love for God.

Note the following ...

A. God is love.

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.

God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 John 4.16

B. Jesus summarized the Word of God.

34 But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.

35 One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a *question*, testing Him,

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

37 And He said to him,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.

39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22.34-38

C. If we truly love Him, we will obey His Word.

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me;

and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father,

and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

John 14.21

D. Obedience is critical.

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them,
may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house;
and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

26 “Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them,
will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

27 “The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house;
and it fell—and great was its fall.”

[Matt 7.24 - 27](#)

Let's build our lives on the Rock!!!