

Living in the Word

By Bill Scheidler

Introduction

This morning I would like to read a few verses concerning our life in the Word of God.

Key Verses regarding the Word of God:

Psalm 19:7-11

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Verse 19, NLT

They are a warning to those who hear them; there is great reward for those who obey them.

It is our obedience to the word or putting the words into practice that carry the blessing.

Isaiah 66:1-2

Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? 2 For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."

Verse 2, Message

"I made all this! I own all this!...But there is something I'm looking for: a person simple and plain, reverently responsive to what I say."

Personally, I am afraid not to follow the precepts of the word of God. Just like I'm afraid to not follow the instruction manual when I try to put something together. I have had a few bad experiences.

Matthew 4:1-4

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Jesus let us know that these are words to live by.

Matthew 23:1-3

Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

The Pharisees were known for their knowledge of the word. The problem was they know the word but they did not practice the word. Knowledge puffs up but love edifies (1 Cor. 8:1).

2 Timothy 2:15-16

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

There are two parts to this passage. The second is just as important as the first. We put a priority on studying God’s word and we minimize our study of anything contrary to the word of God “profane and idle babblings.”

Keep away from worthless and useless talk. It only leads people farther away from God. – CEV

We are to avoid the worthless and the useless, but give ourselves to the valuable and the useful.

This passage teaches us five things concerning our life in the word:

1. We must be diligent.

This means that we must “exert ourselves with earnest diligence” because there are obstacles and difficulties involved. Other translations say...

Study... --Amp

Earnestly endeavor... --ABUV

Do your best... --NIV

Work hard... --NLT

2. We must do it to please and be approved of by God.

This verse tells us that we should be more concerned about the approval of God. After all, it is God’s word that we are handling.

Other translations say it this way...

Earnestly seek to commend yourself to God... --Wey

Try hard to show yourself worthy of God's approval... --NEB

Aim first at winning God's approval... --Knox

Work hard so God can approve you... --NLT

Concentrate on doing your best for God... --Msg

3. We must be willing to do the work of it.

When it comes to the Word, you must see yourself as a worker. This is your livelihood. Paul speaks of laboring in word and doctrine (I Tim. 5:17). We need to get good at this. Leaders are to give themselves to the Word (Acts 6:4).

*Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who **labor** in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The **laborer** is worthy of his wages." I Timothy 5:17-18*

The word "labor" in this passage literally means "to feel fatigue." This is not a casual work. The analogy given is that of an ox treading out the grain.

4. We must rightly divide or be accurate in our use of the word.

To rightly divide literally means to "cut straight." This implies that there is a proper interpretation of what is being said. Other translations state it this way:

Ever cutting a straight path for the message of truth. --Mon

Driving a straight furrow, in your proclamation of truth. --NEB

Rightly laying out the Word of Truth. --Alf

Correctly analyzing the message of truth. --Ber

Skillfully handling the word. --Rhm

Accurate in delivering the message of truth. --TCNT

Declaring the word of truth without distortion. --Con

Laying out the truth plain and simple. --Msg

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth. --Amp

Be eager [or, diligent] to present yourself approved to God [as] a worker with no need to be ashamed, cutting straight [fig., teaching accurately; or, interpreting correctly] the word of truth. --Analytical-Literal Translation

5. When we do not rightly divide the word of God we can end up ashamed.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

*But you must **continue in the things which you have learned** and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

How can I grow in the Word?

Constant growth is something we devote our lives to. It involves the following habits (Adapted from *The Word of the King* by Tendai Chitsike):

1. I grow in His Word by hearing it.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:11

2. I grow in His Word by reading it.

...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. I Peter 2:2-3

3. I grow in His Word by studying it.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

4. I grow in His Word by meditating on it.

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Joshua 1:8

5. I grow in His Word by memorizing it.

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

6. I grow in His Word by confessing it.

Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. Matthew 4:10-11

7. I grow in His Word by doing it.

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"
Luke 11:28

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22