CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE WORKS OF THE BIBLE (PART 6)

SCRIPTURE READING:

"⁷ 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 for ever: 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 is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward (Ps 19:7-11).

INTRODUCTION:

A. According to Dr. Charles Stanley, "God has given us His written Word for the following reasons: (1) To Reveal the One True God, (2) To Lead Us to Salvation, (3) To Understand How to Live a Godly Life, and (4) To Know How to Serve the Lord."

Points to Ponder:

Where do you turn to during stressful times, sickness, tragedies, difficult times and hardships? Always, go to the Word of God for encouragement, guidance, and wisdom. Also, read the Word of God Daily so that it will be in your heart and mind to help you when trouble strikes.

- "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee" (Ps 9:10).
- o "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Ps 119:11).
- "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isa 41:10).
- o "Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength" (Isa 26:4).

B. Reading the Bible

Every verse reveals Yourself to me, Every line conveys reality.

When I pray the words that You breathed out, You become so real to me.

Reading the Bible—I love the Word of God!

Reading the Bible—I love the Word of God!

C. HUNGER MAKES FOR A GOOD MEAL

The French have a proverb, which states, "A good meal ought to begin with hunger." It is hard to enjoy a meal when you are not yet hungry. But, when you are hungry, anything tastes good. If we approach the Word with a hunger to be satisfied, we will be satisfied every time. Effective worship begins with a hunger for God. – (Source: The Facts on File, Martin Manser)

For the Bible Study, we will examine three ways in which the Bible works in Christian Believers:

I. The Word of God is to Give Us the Sword of the Spirit

- o "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:17).
- o The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.
- A. Swords were used by soldiers to protect themselves from harm or to fight off and slay enemies.
 - 1. The Word of God is used to protect the Believer from sin and temptation.
 - o Jesus quoted scripture on three occasions to overcome temptation (Matt 4:1-11).
 - 2. The Word of God is to make Believers strong and able to withstand the evilness of the enemy Satan (Ps 119:11, 33-40, 99-105).

B. The Word of God is Inspired by the Holy Spirit and Written by Men

- o "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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim 3:16-17).
- **1.** The Word of God is Profitable (useful, beneficial) for **<u>Doctrine</u>** Teaching what is right such as the Trinity, Angels, Sin, Salvation, The Church, and the Second Coming of Christ.
- **2.** The Word of God is Profitable for <u>Reproof</u> It speaks concerning matters that are displeasing to God. It refutes error and false teachings (what is not right).
- **3.** The Word of God is Profitable for <u>Correction</u> Although is shows what is not right, it shows forth the way in which it can be made right.
- o "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph 4:28).
- o The first part of this verse is the reproof; The second part is the correction.
- **4.** The Word of God is Profitable for <u>Instruction in Righteousness</u> It teaches how to stay right; How to live Godly lives It details how Believers are to go about making up a Godly life.

C. The Word of God is Used to Save Souls (James 1:21).

The Word of God is the instrument God uses in the Spiritual Birth. God uses The Word in saving the soul from the penalty and power of sin. It saves from eternal damnation.

- O Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Philip led the Ethiopian official to faith in Christ by using the Old Testament. Philip "Preached Jesus unto him" (Acts 8:26-40).
- o "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom 10:17).

II. The Word of God is to Nourish Us

- o "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained" (1 Tim 4:6).
- o **Nourished** To Train up, to educate in, to feed on
- A. Believers are to Continually Feed on "Words of Faith" (Word of God).
 - 1. Read, study, hear and meditate on the Word of God
 - o "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim 2:15).
 - o "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Pet 2:2-3).

2. Talk about the Word of God

- o "And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments" (Ps 119:43).
- o "Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness" (Ps 119:40).

3. Obey the Word of God

- o "I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies" (Ps 119:59).
- o "I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments" (Ps 119:60).
- o "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word" (Ps 119:67).

B. Believers are to Continually Feed on "Good Doctrine".

- 1. "Good Doctrine" is based on the Word of God.
 - God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Man, Sin, Salvation, The Church, Angels, Satan, Holy Scripture, Rapture, Second Coming of Christ, and the Last Things are all Good Doctrine.

2. Combatting False Teaching is to Keep Good Doctrine.

Believers must continually feed on the Word of God – The truth of the Word of God

- so they will not stray from it by false teachers and teaching.
- o "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1).

3. Soul Food

A great man had a camel that was wasting away, until it seemed at the point of death. "See," cried he, to the simple son of the desert, "here is my camel: I have tried cordials and elixir, balsams and lotions. Alas! all are in vain." The plain man looked at the hollow sides, the staring bones, the projecting ribs. "Oh, most learned philosopher," said he, "thy camel needeth but one thing!" "What is it, my son?" asked the old, wise man, eagerly. "Food, sir — good food, and plenty of it." "Dear me," cried the philosopher, "I never thought of that!" Friend, are you in low spirits? There's your cure. You don't want pity, don't deserve it. Give your starved soul more prayer, more communion with God, more meditation on the Word. Then go and try to do good to somebody about you. That's the sure cure for your misery (Biblical Illustrator).

III. The Word of God Challenges Us to "Preach the Word"

- o "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine" (2 Tim 4:2).
- o "Preach the Word" means to proclaim the Word, to give it out, to herald it.
- A. We should be ready to preach/teach at any time day or night, any time of the year and under any circumstance.
- B. We are to preach/teach the Word of God to comfort others funeral, counseling, or conflicts.
- C. We are to preach/teach with a great deal of patience.
- D. There is no closed season for preaching/teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Unbelievers.

o A Word in Season

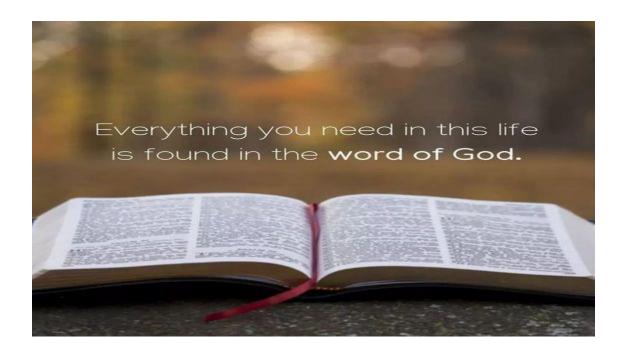
A poor blacksmith, bending with age and weakness, was passing through a country village; he stopped at a good woman's cottage, and rested himself on the railing before the door. The pious dame came out, and the weary traveller remarked that his time here would be short; he was often ailing; he added, "Ah, Nanny! I sha'n't be long for this world, I reckon!" She thought of his words, and replied, "Well, John, then I hope you'll prepare for your journey!" The blacksmith passed on, and his call was soon forgotten by Nanny; but that simple sentence was impressed on his memory by the Spirit of God, never to be erased. He pondered it while walking home, and soon consumption laid him on a bed of pain. Again and again did he think about "the journey," and about being "prepared" for it. He began to pray, and all around him were continually hearing the old woman's advice. No pious friends were near to converse with him, hut it is confidently believed that the aged sinner was led to look to the Saviour through the simple incident related above. Almost his last breath was spent in thanking God that the good old woman ever warned him "Be instant in season, out of season": sow beside all waters, that thou mayest reap a glorious harvest at the coming of the Son of Man - (Christian Miscellany.)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths" (Ps 25:4).

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Word of God is to Give us the Sword of the Spirit, The Word of God is Used to Nourish Us, and The Word of God Challenges Us to "Preach the Word".
- B. "Give the Bible the honor due in every day you live. Whatever you read, read that first" J.C. Ryle
- C. "You preach a better sermon with your life than you do with your lips Unknown
- D. "God's Word is pure and sure, in spite of the devil, in spite of your fear, in spite of everything" R.A. Torrey
- E. **The Bible is "A Sourcebook for Everyday Living.** We find standards for our conduct, guidelines for knowing right from wrong and principles to help us in a confused society where so often anything goes"- (The International Bible Society).



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"... the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa 40:8).