

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Infinite Value of the Word of God **2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Psalm 19**

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PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: The Word of God is powerful, so says the writer of Hebrews. But exactly how is that power manifested? In this sermon Pastor Henry shows six specific ways that the Word of God is used to transform a person into the likeness of Jesus.

I. Introduction.

- A. Introduce 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 - 1. The flow of the text.
 - 2. My plan is to approach this passage in a roundabout manner. This week I want to show you the infinite value of possessing and knowing the Scripture.
 - 3. Next week I want to press home the need to be quick to hear it, practice it and teach it.
 - 4. Then we will look carefully here to see how the Word of God is designed by God to prepare us to abound in good works before God and man.
- B. Psalm 19.
 - 1. Introduction to Psalm.
- C. The Glory of God in Creation (1-6).
 - 1. Note first that David speaks highly of the power of natural revelation.
 - 2. The heavens declare. . .
 - a. Notice it is a very pointed and directed message that nature proclaims. The very glory of God—the works of His hands.

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- b. The delight and joy of nature is to tell of the great glory and power and majesty of God. It is what nature truly exists to do.
3. It is here that conviction builds for me, for it truly shows the poverty of my soul and begins to show the depth I have fallen.
 - a. For the great sin of man is described in Romans 1:18ff where we are told that we exchanged that great glory for cheap substitutions that shall never satisfy that infinite longing in our hearts.
 - b. Yet the Lord redeems us, the Spirit places us safely in our Lord and Savior. The Father blesses us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, and all, according to Ephesians 1, to the praise of His glory.
 - c. And yet, my life still falls short of daily and nightly crying forth “Glory!”
4. What about you? Are you that perfect and endless shout of God’s glory?
 - a. Your body is. It quietly and faithfully functions and works itself out every day for the glory of God.
 - b. But in your heart is that the desire?
 - c. Can you see my point? Can you see that we are still beggars? Not because we are truly beggars, but because we keep being satisfied with things that cannot satisfy!
 - d. Are there some of you here who are at that point? Are you seeing the emptiness of this world that sits under the dominion of Satan? Are you seeing that you have wearied yourself pursuing other things?
 - e. Perhaps even now might you begin to offer a prayer of repentance and re-commitment to the Lord?
5. But it is the second section that gets into the meat of the issue. Though creation cries out day and night of God’s glory, creation cannot and will not save.

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- (1) Creation cannot and will not create true change in the hearts of sinful man.
 - (2) Creation cannot and will not lead a man to repentance.
 - (3) Creation cannot and will not bring you into a greater conformity to Christ's image.
- b. It is not designed to do that. That is where the Word of God comes into play.

II. The Glory of God in His Word (7-11).

Propositional Statement

In vss 7-9 there is a clear format that David follows. There are 6 distinct statements about the Word of God. We will see 6 specific ways that God has designed the bible to affect people at the very core of their being.

1. Notice first that in each of these vss the name of the LORD is used—YHWH. This is a rich term that is filled with much that does the soul good.
 - a. David is invoking God's personal name.
 - b. This is not a title or descriptive name, like El or Elohim. It is His personal name.
 - c. It speaks of God's covenant and His faithfulness to His promises—promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 - d. It is the name of the one true God who delivered Israel from bondage.
 - e. And here, David is saying, this is the YHWH's Word and it does wonderful things.
2. You will note three components to each line.
 - a. First, there is a unique title given to the bible (law, precepts, commandments, fear, and judgments). These are all shorthand terms for the bible.

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- b. Second, there is a description of a character of the bible.
 - c. Third, there is an effect that comes through the bible.
- B. The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul (7a).
- 1. The 'law' speaks of the teaching nature of the Word. It speaks of God teaching man, the giving of the Law to Moses, instructing them on how to live.
 - 2. The term 'perfect' is a wonderful statement.
 - a. It is described as being unblemished and with full integrity. Nothing is out of place and nothing is lacking.
 - b. It is such a complete statement that it covers all things. A person can come to the bible with a confidence that cannot be found anywhere else.
 - 3. And the effect that it has upon the heart of man is so encouraging. It restores the soul.
 - a. Here we get into the doctrine of sin and of the fall of man.
 - b. The heart is dead and twisted. God describes the heart of the unregenerate as being only capable of evil continually.
 - c. David says that we were conceived in sin. Paul describes us as being dead in our trespasses and sins. Slaves to our lusts.
 - d. And God has ordained that through the Word of God that the soul would be restored, converted, and transformed.
 - e. This fits into what Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:15-17,

“. . . from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (There is the converting power of the Word) All Scripture is inspired by God and (And now we will see its transforming power) profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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- f. Frankly, it is only through the word that this shall happen—which is why the counselor must always find himself fully settled upon the bible.
- C. The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple (7b).
- 1. The term ‘testimony’ speaks of the bible as a witness. God has given us the Word as a testimony, or a witness of who He is and what He requires.
 - 2. Because it is God’s testimony it is solid and sure.
 - a. It is unwavering and unchanging.
 - b. Psalm 119:89 Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.
 - c. The word for ‘sure’ is where we get the word ‘amen.’ It is established and it is true and certain
 - d. In this world we live in today, truth has be so relativized that it means nothing. And the effects are seen all over.
 - e. We must be prepared to speak and use the Word of God as it actually is—sure and trustworthy.
 - 3. The effect is to make the simple wise.
 - a. The ‘simple’ is another term for the naive. It means to be “open-minded,” now think about that for a moment!
 - (1) The simple is the one who does not know how to close his mind to the things that need to be shut out.
 - (2) There is no discernment and therefore no wisdom. They are easily led astray and easily enticed to go the way of folly.
 - b. Wisdom is a common word in the Old Testament.
 - (1) It is a word that speaks of skill.
 - (2) A wise man or woman is one who is skillful at using the Word of God in their lives.

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(3) They live skillfully and it is driven by the Word.

(4) The bible is so much a part of their thinking that it defines and informs them in all that they do.

D. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart (8a).

1. 'Precepts' brings with it the idea of guidelines and direction. It has a shepherding aspect to it, where we can look to the Word and see where we ought to go.
2. And God's precepts are described as being 'right.'
 - a. This means that they are straight and correct. They do not wander nor slowly fade away.
 - b. The word also gives the sense that when something is "right" it is agreeable and pleasant. Now we have all heard and said this ourselves. There are times when we say, "It just seemed right."
 - c. And this is what the Word of God is for us. We can hear the opinions of an endless stream of humanity, but when we go back to the Bible we find that it is just "right."
3. And as result it takes the soul and brings joy to it.
 - a. We are not left without a guide. The holy scripture is to be our guide.
 - b. And there is the promise that as it becomes that guide and standard that joy is to follow.
 - c. Joy that comes from knowing God's will.
 - d. Joy that comes from knowing that it is proper and good.
 - e. Joy that comes from knowing that God is pleased with it.
 - f. The rebel hates God and therefore hates His Word, but the one who loves the Lord loves His word and loves to do His word.

E. The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes (8b).

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1. The commands of the Lord are pure, meaning clear and unobstructed.
 - a. The way of the Lord is not a vaguely lit path that is filled with many pitfalls.
 - b. Proverbs 15:19 The way of the sluggard is as a hedge of thorns, But the path of the upright is a highway.
 - c. Or as it is written in Psalm 119, God's word is a light unto our feet and a lamp unto our paths.
 - d. How often have you heard a counselee seek refuge in not knowing what they are to do? It is not true. The commands of our Lord are pure and clear. They require little effort to grasp.
 2. The result is that the eyes are enlightened.
 - a. So much of the need in our counsel is the need to give hope. And it is only going to be found by going back to the Word.
 - b. The word opens our eyes and shows us what really is.
 - c. It allows us to see things clearly and to focus on what is true and right.
 - d. It enables us to have hope as we see that God is present and at work, even in our times of great trial and affliction.
- F. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever (9a).
1. The use of "fear" is interesting because it is applied to the bible. Why? Well my point on this will be made after the break, but the simple answer is that the bible is designed to open our eyes to the glory and awesomeness of God. It is to cause us to see Him as He is and cry out with Isaiah, "Woe is me! I am undone.!" It is to smash our hearts of pride and bring us to our knees in holy worship.
 2. When it says that it is clean it means just that—no uncleanness, no impurity, no tainting of lies.

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- a. It one of the things that amazes me with those who hold to an integrationist approach.
 - b. Why sully the Word? Why mix in with it the wisdom of man?
 3. The words of man last but a moment and then are forgotten. Vast libraries have perished in our world over the millenia, but not God's word.
 4. Nothing in it can create rot. It is pure and unstained and therefore it stands. Not just for Moses, or David, or Jeremiah, or Micah. It stands firm for me and you.
- G. The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether (9b).
1. This word, 'judgments' is another awesome picture of the bible.
 - a. It speaks to being ruler and having the ability to decide cases.
 - b. The bible is God's judgment handed down to us. As the supreme Judge it is His opinion alone that matters.
 - c. God declares in His Word what shall occur, what has occurred and what ought to occur.
 2. When we look at His word we find it is to sure. Which means to be reliable and faithful. There is a permanent quality to it.
 - a. It is not wishy-washy. It is not double-minded or double-tongued.
 - b. It is "righteous altogether."
- H. Therefore David declares that this Scripture is desirable and delightful to him.
1. It is greater that delightful foods.
 2. And it is greater that gold itself.
 3. I spoke to a pastor who had been in Philippines. Every time he would read an extensive passage from the bible the people in

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this remote area would jump up and applaud! They were a poor people who were starved for the Word of God. Oh that we might be brought back to that spirit ourselves!

4. May God grant us the eyes to see that His glory is most fully displayed in the Word. It can do what a time of retreat in a quiet mountain cabin can never do!
- I. But why does he delight in this bible? Verse 11 gives us two reasons:
 1. First, the scripture has a preserving quality.
 - a. For the servant of God, this scripture is not a heavy yoke. It is a good and right instrument in the hands of God. It warns and guides and protects us.
 2. Second it has great reward attached to it.
 - a. Here we get into the way God blesses His people again.
 - b. His way is not hard for it brings great reward. But it calls us to believe that God shall reward—it is battle of faith.
 - J. And to that end, David lifts up a prayer to His glorious God.

III. God's Servants Desire to Glorify Him (13-14).

- A. Having contemplated the endless praise to God in creation and the soul-satisfying, soul-restoring power of God's word, David now declares his desire to glorify God.
- B. His soul is awakened again that he is a sinner. His heart produces sin with great ease and he can be found guilty of seeking to exalt himself.
- C. Therefore he asks that God keep him from presumptuous sins.
 1. That word carries the idea of being insolent and arrogant.
 2. In Psalm 119:21 it is described of those who wander from the commandments.
 3. It is a sin of pride—a highhanded sin where we exalt ourselves over the ways of God.
- D. David desires to be found blameless before God, not man.

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- E. David needs God's work in his heart so that God would preserve him and allow him to be a mouthpiece of praise to God.
 - 1. David's desire is that the words that he speaks and the thoughts that he thinks would be of God.
 - 2. That God would accept them as true and proper aspects of worship and praise.

IV. Conclusion.

- A. We have a treasure in the bible. We find a true description of ourselves. We find a true revelation of our Creator. We find the answer to our quandary through Jesus Christ. We see our end, one way or the other.
- B. When we know the Word well we grow in our wisdom and into the likeness of our Lord.
- C. The challenge is to be readers of it. Let me introduce you to a great little site: <http://howlongdoesittaketoreadthebible.com/>

Small Group Questions

- What are some ways that the bible has given you wisdom in life?
- How is your time in the Word of God? What are the most common ways that you struggle to be studying and meditating on it?
- What is the difference between reading and meditating?
- How many times have you read through the bible completely? What plan do you have in place to be able to do this? Go to the site if you are able and have a few people take the test. Then see what it would take for them to read the bible in one year.