

10/30/05

The Importance of The Word. Pt. 1, #2

The word of God is likened to many things in scripture in order to give us a multi-understanding of the purpose and benefit of the word to our lives.

1. The word is a lamp, previously we were spiritually blind. Ps. 119:105
2. The word is fire, consuming what is of no good. Jer. 5:14
3. The word is a hammer, able to brake the hardest of men and women. Jer. 23:29
4. The word is a seed, that with potential to bring about life, being watered in my heart. Matt. 13:18-23
5. The word is a sword, that which is an offensive weapon of the only truth for everything to be judged. Eph. 6:17

But one of the most important metaphors of the word of God is food, to satisfy spiritual hunger.

1. Shepherds are called to feed the flock of God. Jn. 21:15-17, Acts 20:28, 1Pet. 5:2
* Not striving to produce a ministry but feeding the flock.
2. Sheep are to hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled. Matt. 5:6, 1Pet. 2:2
* Too many are spiritual cheer-leaders!

Not everyone in the church is at the same spiritual level but the scriptures do give to us three categories of believers. 1Jn. 2:12-14

1. The word little children “teknion” means to give birth to, little born ones, an endearing term which is used throughout the epistle. Vs. 12
* 1Jn. 2:1, 28, 3:7, 4:4, 5:21
- 2 The three levels of spirituality are given to us. Vs. 13
 - a. Fathers refers to the older men that have walked with Christ for many years, perhaps some from their youth.
 - b. Young men are those in their vigorous prime of life, conquering over the enemy.
 - c. Little children re immature ones from the word to train or chastise “paideumi”.
 - d. All are included in by the word “teknion” little born ones regardless of spiritual maturity. Vs. 12

We want to look at the first three reasons for the importance of the word of God.

- I. The word is important for nourishing the new born believer: little children.
- II. The word is important for developing the believer: the young man.
- III. The word is important for maturing the believer: the father.

I. The word is important for nourishing the new born believer: little children.

A. The new born believer is compared to a newborn babe who has potential for growth.

* “As new born babes.” 1Pet. 2:2a

1. Milk is proper food for infants and provides all the necessary nourishment until the digestive tract is developed.
 - * The mothers milk has all the nutrients and immunity for the child.
2. Milk is given to an infant in small and frequent feedings because he or she is unable to take in great amounts.
 - * They will develop an apatite!

B. The newborn believer is to desire the pure milk of the word that he or she may grow.

* “Desire the pure milk of the word, that you nay grow thereby.” 1Pet. 2:2b-c

1. It means the unadulterated word just as it is in the bible without adding anything to it.
 - a. All other books have to be judged by the word of God!
 - b. We must read the Bible more than other books.
2. It means the basic and simple gospel without getting to profound into the Hebrew and the Greek or difficult doctrines to start with.
 - * For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskillful in the word of

righteousness, for he is a babe. Heb. 5:13

C. The newborn believer is compared to a lamb by Jesus. Jn. 21:15

* So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”

1. A lamb can not survive alone.
 - * You follow Jesus not a man!
2. A lamb will feed on bad pasture.
 - * You need to know what is Biblical truth!
3. A lamb is a prey to wolves.
 - * Your only defense is the word of God!
4. A lamb will just turn his head and forget the flock is behind him, so he starts freaking out!

Illustration

Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Matt. 4:4, Duet. 8:3

The word is important for nourishing the new believer, the little children!

II. The word is important for developing the believer: the young man.

- A. The believer must go from infancy to a young believer. 1Jn. 2:12-13
- * “I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him [who is] from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.”
1. Nourishing has to do with food for life and growth.
 - a. Being excited and staying excited.
 - b. Being passionate to grow.
 2. Development has to do with the progressive growth in proportion to our potential and capacity in Christ.

* There is a distinction between growth and development.

 - a. Example of body-builder neglecting his legs or an infant.
 - b. Some Christians get are knowledgeable in prophecy but know nothing of consecration, the gifts, etc.
 3. One can grow and never develop physically or spiritually!
 - a. Some Christians remain spiritual infants all their lives.
 - b. Others remain a spiritual teen-agers, being IK's, “I know everything”,

being rebellious, self-willed, causing trouble and being divisive in church.

- B. The believer is to grow from milk to solid food or he will be carnal. 1Cor. 3:1-2
- * “ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?
1. The had envy, envy is one of the marks of carnality.
 2. Strife is another mark.
 3. Divisions is a third.

* The life of carnality is a life of self center-ness!
 4. The works of the flesh are the way of life, refusing to yield to the new nature to walk in the Spirit but yielding to the old nature.
 5. The fault at times is of the preacher but often it is the believer who refuses to grow.

* They play church, rather than being the church!

- C. The believer is to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. 2Pet. 3:17-18
 * “You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.”
1. Beware lest you fall from your own steadfastness and be led away. Vs. 17
 2. But grow in the grace, the only ability of our growth. Vs. 18a
 3. But grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, this is the instruction. Vs. 18b
 * Not mere intellectual knowledge but experienced knowledge! Phil 3:10
- D. The believer is to grow in his spiritual capacity. 2Pet. 1:5-9
 * “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks

- these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.”
1. Due to personal diligence.
 2. Due to the potential of the new divine nature.
 3. Due to the potential of daily growth.
- E. The believer is to grow by fellowship. Heb. 10:24-25
 * “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
1. In love.
 2. In good works.
 3. In gathering as a church.
 4. In exhorting to one another.
 5. In view of Christ’s soon return.
 6. What if the person you have married would tell you one day, “I think I will only come home once and a while”, that is the attitude of some Christians regarding church.

Illustration

Even as an infant is the joy of his parents, so is a child the heart ache of a parent if he never develops, be it physically, socially or spiritually.

* We can tolerate certain behavior in infants that we should not in young children!

The word is important for developing the believer, the young men!

III. The word is important for maturing the believer: the father.

A. The believer must move forward from a young man to fatherhood.

1. Nourishing has to do with food for life and growth.
2. Development has to do with the progressive growth in proportion to our potential and capacity in Christ.
3. Maturity has to do with arriving at a full age in each level of development, being responsible and accountable.
 - a. We have all know children who have been given everything, valuing nothing.
 - b. We all have seen the lack of accountability, people blaming everyone for their lives.

B. The believer's maturity does not mean perfection through the greater potential. Phil. 3:12-15

* "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I

may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you."

1. The believer will never arrive in this life time, Paul says this after 35 years! Vs. 12a-b
2. He presses on to lay hold of all that God has for him. Vs 12c-d
3. He can accomplish this only by forgetting the things that are behind and reaching for those things ahead. Vs 13
4. He presses towards the prize the call of God. Vs. 14
5. He conducts himself according to his age. Vs. 15

C. The believer's maturity is marked by being equipped for the work of the ministry. Eph. 4:11-16

* "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and

teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

1. By the men of the church Jesus anoints. Vs. 11
2. For the edifying of the body. Vs. 12
3. Till each believer reaches spiritual maturity. Vs. 13
4. To not be deceived spiritually and know truth. Vs. 14-15
5. For the efficiency of the body. Vs. 16

D. The believer's maturity is marked by a living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1-2

* “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

1. In good times .
2. In bad times.
3. In holiness.
4. In view of God’s will.

5. Not being fashioned to the world but transformed by the renewing of our mind.

E. The believer’s maturity is marked by the ability to rightly divide the word of truth.

2Tim. 2:15

* “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

1. Being diligent to make time for study of God’s word.
2. Being diligent to examine if those things are so.
3. Being diligent to be approved of God not man.

* Able to digest solid food! Heb. 5:14

Illustration

A child who has grown, developed and matured as an adult to discern what is right or wrong, lives responsibly and is an asset to his home and society at large, likewise is the Christian to his family and the family of God.

The word is important for maturing the believer, the fathers!

Conclusion

These are the first three reasons for the importance of the word of God.

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- II.** The word is important for developing the believer: the young man!
- III.** The word is important for maturing the believer: the father!