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“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

February 2022

No. 434

THE POWER OF THE WORD

The Word is also referred to as the Scriptures, the Law, the Gospel, and the Bible. But in essence, it is the way in which God has chosen to speak with us, to instruct us and to convert us unto the ways of righteousness through His inspired writers.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2 Tim. 3:16)

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing

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asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
(Heb. 4:12)

The Word then does have great power. Therefore, it is profitable to all who seek righteousness. It has the power to give us knowledge, if we will use this power correctly as we have been instructed.

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim. 3:14-15)

The Word of God is powerful enough to give us all things which pertain to life everlasting.

1. The Word gives us light.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psa. 119:105)

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: (2 Pet. 1:19)

When we say that the Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light in our pathway, we simply mean that the Word of God, the Bible, is our guide to a Christian life and a home in heaven. The Bible is the light of our life which is dark otherwise. It illuminates the stumbling blocks which cause us to stumble and fall.

2. The Word gives us understanding. If we read the Bible with the proper attitude and frame of mind, we can understand it and then understand the things that we must do to live a godly life. Throughout the 119th chapter of Psalms we can read where the power of the Word gives us understanding as to our duty to God even unto the most simple-minded. In other words, we don't have to be scholars to understand the Bible.

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. (Psa. 119:104)

3. The Word produces faith.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)

What is faith?

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)

Without faith, we are lost, we are damned, we have no hope of an eternal life with God.

And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin. (Rom. 14:23)

4. The Word quickens us.

This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me. (Psa. 119:50)

The word *quicken* means “give life to.” Therefore, we become more spiritually alive in His Word.

5. The Word draws us to Him.

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. (John 6:44-45)

The Word of God has a spiritual attraction or the power to

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draw us to Him and gives us the desire to become a part of Him. Without that power, man could not become, nor would he want to become a Christian.

6. The Word has the power to save us:

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. (Jas. 1:21)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (Rom. 1:16)

If the power of the Word is able to draw us to God, we then can become saved from our past sins through the power of the Word--the same power!

How can we accept something that we are ashamed of? Paul said that he was not ashamed of it, yet today we find people who are ashamed of the Gospel.

7. The Word has the power to convert.

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. (Psa. 19:7)

Understanding the word *convert* is very important to a Christian. One must convert his way of living – or change his way of living – from that of a sinner to that of a Christian. Webster’s Dictionary says that *convert* means “to bring over from one belief, view, or party to another.” Then we must, after being saved from our past sins, turn our lives around and head them toward Christ. Only the Word of God has the power to do this.

8. The Word shows a new birth.

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (Jas. 1:18)

The new birth is spoken of by Christ in the 3rd chapter of

John. He said to Nicodemus, “*Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God.*” Christ was speaking of the spiritual birth and not the physical birth (John 3:3-6). So in essence, the power of the Word of God gives us a new birth, and the new birth gives us a new life--a new life that we must walk in that is spiritual.

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Rom. 6:4)

After having been raised from the dead, Christ began to walk in his new life. We then being Christ-like, after being raised from the watery grave, must also put on a new life.

9. The Word can comfort us.

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. (Rom. 15:4)

Through the knowledge of the scriptures, we have comfort in the fact that there is hope for eternal life.

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (John 15:26)

When we become troubled with the cares of life and the condition of the world, the power of the Word, through the light of its understanding, our faith in God gives us the power to comfort one another. The Word of God is the seed of his Kingdom on earth.

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. (Luke 8:11)

An indication as to how powerful the Word of God really is, all the world and its creation were spoken into existence by the Word of God.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (Heb. 11:3)

If the Word of God is this powerful, we should take heed and give this power an opportunity to work in our lives.

Adapted from a sermon by KENT DICKINSON
(Deceased)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. After the first king of Israel failed God, what was the name of the second man who was anointed king?
2. How did the wise men know that the King of the Jews had been born?
3. Whose father was so pleased to see him that he gave him the best robe and killed the fatted calf?
4. The field that Judas Iscariot purchased with his betrayal money was called Aeldama, but as what was it also known?
5. For how long was the dragon bound in the bottomless pit?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

FROM THE SCRIPTURES: ABOUT SPIRITUAL THIRST

To the chief Musician, Maschil, for the sons of Korah. As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? (Psa. 42:1-2)

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; (Psa. 63:1)

I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah. (Psa. 143:6)

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: (Amos 8:11)

And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. (Zec. 14:8-9)

Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. (John 4:10)

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) (John 7:37-39)

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Rev. 7:17)

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:1-2)

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (Rev. 22:17)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
February 4 - 6	Taylor's Cross Roads Roanoke, AL	Various Speakers from the Chapel Hill Congregation at Pell City, AL

*Masks and social distancing are recommended at these meetings.
Please check the website calendar for the latest updates.*

PSALMS AND THEIR ACCOMPANYING RECORDS IN SCRIPTURE

David wrote many of his Psalms in response to events in his life. These events are often recorded in the inscriptions before the first verse of the Psalm in most English translations of the Bible. When we read both the Psalm and its accompanying record, we can better understand each of them. Here are a few examples:

Psalm 3 - "A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son." *2 Samuel 15*

Psalm 51 - "To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba." *2 Samuel 11-12*

Psalm 52 - "To the chief Musician, Maschil, A Psalm of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, and said unto him, David is come to the house of Ahimelech." *1 Samuel 21:1-9; 22:1-23*

Psalm 54 - "To the chief Musician on Neginoth, Maschil, A Psalm of David, when the Ziphims came and said to Saul, Doth not David hide himself with us?" *1 Samuel 23:14-24*

Psalm 59 - "To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David; when Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him." *1 Samuel 19:11-18*