

## The Third Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 20, 2022

### “Living & Active: ~ Feeding On the Word”

#### Psalm 119:1-24

Biblical intake is one of the classical spiritual disciplines that promote spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ among believers.

No matter what discipline we are practising, the end or purpose is always the same: the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_.

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” (1 Timothy 4:7)

Godliness can be defined as both \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ. A conformity that’s both inward and outward—to both the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

God’s Word is described as spiritual \_\_\_\_\_—and is compared to the water, milk, bread, and meat of the spiritual life—everything we need for spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

In the Bible, God tells us about Himself—about His \_\_\_\_\_ and character. In the Bible, we encounter God’s love, mercy, \_\_\_\_\_, and forgiveness—most fully expressed in His Son, Jesus. The Bible unfolds the Law of God to us and shows us how we’ve all broken it and fallen \_\_\_\_\_ of His glorious standard. The Bible shows us how Christ died as a sinless, willing \_\_\_\_\_ for breakers of God’s Law and how we must \_\_\_\_\_ and believe in Him in order to be \_\_\_\_\_ with God. The Bible teaches us the ways and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord—how we can know Him more; how we can live as He’d have us live, and what brings the most joy and \_\_\_\_\_ in life. The Bible is the depository of all of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 WAYS TO FEED ON GOD’S WORD

#### #1. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word.

“So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

This verse speaks to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the spoken Word of God and the power of \_\_\_\_\_ and receiving it into our hearts and minds

When the Bible is read out loud, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’ Word pierces the darkness and cuts through all the noise and distractions of the world. It’s like an arrow that can’t \_\_\_\_\_ its mark.

“...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:10-11)

We live in a fast paced, visual world, that has trained us to seek instant \_\_\_\_\_ at every turn. If we don’t discipline ourselves to actually hear God’s Word regularly, we may hear it only \_\_\_\_\_, when we feel like it, or never at all; thereby limiting God’s \_\_\_\_\_ power within us.

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28)

The purpose of the discipline of biblical intake is to \_\_\_\_\_ what God says, thereby developing \_\_\_\_\_.

“Be doers of the word, not hearers only who deceive themselves.” (James 1:22)

Hearing God’s Word isn’t a \_\_\_\_\_ activity. It’s a discipline to be cultivated. What I mean by that is, we need to actively \_\_\_\_\_ the soil of our hearts and minds to receive God’s Word, so that it can take root, grow, and eventually bear fruit in our lives.

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” (1 Timothy 4:13)

#### Is hearing God’s Word important to you?

#### Is it a discipline that you regularly practice in your life?

#### #2. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word.

“Have you not read this scripture: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone...’” (Mark 12:10)

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ that those who claimed to be the people of God would have \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God.

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

If Paul’s words in 2 Timothy 3:16 that “...all Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...” are \_\_\_\_\_, shouldn’t we read “all Scripture,” and not just the easy parts, the parts we \_\_\_\_\_ with, or understand?

Many believers suffer from failure to \_\_\_\_\_—from a lack of spiritual

food—because they either don't make the time or know \_\_\_\_\_ to read the Bible in order to get the spiritual nourishment that they need.

### 3 SUGGESTIONS FOR DAILY BIBLE READING

- \_\_\_\_\_ **the time.**

One of the main reasons we fail to read through the entire Bible is \_\_\_\_\_. Daily Bible reading is primarily a matter of discipline and \_\_\_\_\_. We need to discipline ourselves to make the time to prioritize Bible reading everyday.

- **Find a Bible reading \_\_\_\_\_ to help organize your study.**

When you are reading in both the OT and NT each day, the \_\_\_\_\_ makes it easier to stay engaged and to keep up the momentum.

- **Find a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Sometimes we can read the words without \_\_\_\_\_ anything in—especially if we are distracted or rushed. Take at least one thing you read—a key word, phrase, verse, or theme—and think about it or a few minutes. Doing so will deepen your \_\_\_\_\_ into God's Word and help you to better understand how to \_\_\_\_\_ it your life.

**Is reading God's Word important to you?**

**Is it a discipline that you regularly practice in your life?**

### #3. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word.

"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us. I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word. Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word." (Psalm 119:11-17)

"Understanding your Word brings light to the minds of ordinary people." (Ps 119:130)

It isn't enough to just hear and read God's Word, we also need to engage with it on a \_\_\_\_\_ level in order to glean its \_\_\_\_\_.

"Reading gives us \_\_\_\_\_, but study gives us \_\_\_\_\_."

### HAVING A HEART FOR BIBLICAL STUDY: 3 EXAMPLES

- \_\_\_\_\_, the priest who read the Law for the first time after the return of the exiles from Babylon.

"For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel." (Ezra 7:10)

Before he taught the Word of God to the people of God, Ezra \_\_\_\_\_ what he learned from his own \_\_\_\_\_. And before he studied, he first "set his heart," to study. In other words he \_\_\_\_\_ himself.

- **Paul and Silas in \_\_\_\_\_.**

"Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing." (Acts 17:11)

The willingness to study the Scriptures daily is commended here as \_\_\_\_\_ character.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **in a Roman prison.**

"When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments." (2 Timothy 4:13)

Most scholars believe that the "parchments" that Paul requested would have been copies of \_\_\_\_\_.

After everything he'd experienced, Paul never stopped \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures, but continued to feast on them daily up until his last breath.

The problem for many people is an \_\_\_\_\_ about how to study the Bible or even where to \_\_\_\_\_. The basic difference between reading and studying the Bible is simply a pen and paper—or some other means of \_\_\_\_\_ your thoughts!

### Tools for Biblical study:

Don't let feelings of \_\_\_\_\_ keep you from the delight of learning the Bible on your own. Don't settle for spiritual food that as been \_\_\_\_\_ by others.

Experience the \_\_\_\_\_ of discovering biblical insights firsthand through your own Bible study.

**Is studying God's Word important to you?**

**Is it a discipline that you regularly practice in your life?**