
GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



Jesus quoted the Old Testament often. For instance, when tempted by Satan himself who miss quoted Scripture, Jesus countered with the exact meaning and intention of Scripture. The take away for us is that when we are fighting our temptations and battling with Satan, we should be using Scripture as well. In Ephesians 6 when addressing the Armor of God, Paul says to “take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

The word used here is the “spoken” Word of God. We are to know the Word and have it on our minds so that we can quote it when needed.

Jesus used the Word from Deuteronomy 8: 3 when Satan offered Him food when He had fasted for 40 days. Jesus said, **“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”** Interesting to me that Jesus used spiritual truths to combat even physical things. Jesus used that verse from Deuteronomy which was in reference to God providing manna in the wilderness to feed the Israelites when they were hungry. The passage goes on to say that God used manna to show the children of Israel that He could provide anything they needed, showing them that He could be trusted in all things. The Lord is our provider.

This is all to say that Jesus’s use here of Old Testament truth was to show us today that we also can trust Him for all things. The lesson is to teach us to read, memorize and utilize the Word of God.

The “mouth of God” is used a couple of their times in reference to a “double edged sword” proceeding from His mouth. In Revelation 1 and in Revelation 2 that wording is used. “From His mouth comes a double edged sword.” Last Sunday when we looked at the first of the two verses, we commented that the double edged sword spoke of Christ’s words bringing judgement on the unrighteous. But, being a double edged sword, it also speaks of encouragement and comfort for the believer. It cuts both ways. Both in judgment but also in encouragement. The Word of God is just that. It condemns the sinner but it encourages the follower of Jesus. Even those verses that talk about our own sins, the encouragement is that God is the great provider of redemption and the forgiveness of sin.

Our verses talk about “every word.” **Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 3: 16 & 17, “All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

In order for us to grow in our relationship with God is to allow His Word to permeate every area of our lives and understand that it is very important that we use His Word to mold and shape us into the servants of God that He wants us to be. Did you notice the wording? All Scripture is:

Useful, It teaches, It rebukes, It corrects It trains us in righteousness

I know that I like the teaching part and the training in righteousness part. The other two cut us deep. Rebuking and correcting?! Yes, that is a part of what the Word of God does for us. There are times that we need rebuking. There are times that we need correcting. God's Word is a double edged sword. Rebuking and correcting on one side, and teaching and training us on the other.

I have often thought that there are parts of the Bible that I don't need to read as often as others. I especially enjoy the New Testament Epistles; all of them, Paul's many letters to various churches, James and Jude's writings. John is great for encouragement and assurance. The Gospels remind us of Christ's time here on the earth. However, our text in 2 Timothy says "All Scripture." Some of those Old Testament books are sometimes difficult to walk through, but they are important. We have looked at several Old Testament books in reference to our study in Revelation.

Someone in my past has said, "The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed; the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed." **God gave us the entirety of the Bible to make us complete in our knowledge of Who He is.** It is important to read the books of the Law to tell us the horribleness of sin. Israel's history tells us so much about the attributes and love of God.

I am sure that some of you can probably tell us the outlines for most if not all of books of the Bible. That would be worth your writing down and gifting some of your children and grandchildren.

The Bible says that His Word will not return to Him void but will accomplish what He wants it to do. **We can rest assured that God's Word will be used in our own lives and in the lives of others the way. That God has intended.**

There are so many easy read versions of the Bible that we can get. Language that we can understand. It is so very important that we have a Bible that we can read easily with the words and verbiage that we can understand.

When we were working out at Sandy Creek Bible Camp, one of our staff's children came into my office and wanted to practice quoting a verse she was learning for Sunday School. They were using the old King James Version. Just to let you know, I am not opposed to the use of the King James, I just use this little story to help in getting help to understand. She quoted what we now call the "Golden Rule." She quoted, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." She said it word for word exact. I congratulated her on her recital performance, then asked her what it meant. She said, and I quote, "I don't need to know what it means, I just need to say it for points."

I then went to the family and encouraged them to get a version of Bible that she could read and understand. What a great accomplishment to memorize verses of the Bible, however we must read to understand. We must understand to apply the truths that we learn to our own lives daily.

There are also so many helps and resources that are available to us. It is always helpful to find an author that we can read who is trained in the translation and meanings of words so we can understand.

I like to use William McDonald. He has written “The Believer’s Commentary.” An excellent resource from a very learned man. I also enjoy the thoughts from John McArthur. He has a very good commentary of the entire Bible as well.

If you need a Bible that you can read daily and understand, come talk to me and we can find one that fits your needs. I truly desire for you to be able to read, enjoy, understand and apply God’s word to your life at all times.

The Bible is also available in various media presentations. Greenvine Baptist Church has been involved in the “Military Stick” availability to service men and women. That has been opened up to Veterans as well. Last month I gave away 25 sticks at our monthly Veteran’s of Foreign War post. They are even asking for more to share with others.

Read the Word. Read it daily. Read it often. My dad used to use the acronym PREP time.

P - Pray

R - Read

E - Examine

P - Pray again

He would say that prior to reading we should ask the Lord to enlighten us with what He has for us this day and to direct our thoughts and minds as to what to read.

Then simply read. Read a portion of God’s Word. Start simply. Maybe in John’s Gospel, then continue on through the rest of the New Testament.

Examine what it means. You may have to look up meanings of words and/or phrases. Try to understand what is being said and how it applies to you today.

Then thank the Lord for your time with Him.

Sometimes journaling or note taking as well as underlining and highlighting helps.

Paul tells Timothy in **2 Timothy 2: 15, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”**

Read today and everyday. Study. Learn. Understand. Apply God’s Word to your lives.

Blessings. Jack & Karen

Announcements

- Woman's Bible Study - Saturday February 6, 10:00am
- WMU will meet Tuesday February 9 @ 6:30pm
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday Feb 24, @ 7am
- Celebration of Life Banquet - Thursday March 4, 2021 - The church will provide a table - Let Jack know if you would like to attend
- Are you staying home because of Covid and would like Jack to bring communion to you? Please call the church office to schedule a time.

Prayer Requests

Please remember too pray for those in our congregation that live alone.

Bob Rippenhagen
Alice Ahlhardt
Gerri Smart

Helen Schulte
Bobbie Schulte
Becky Demuth

Vicky Hoffman
Linda Brumwell

Carolyn and her family in the loss of Felton

Vicky Lee and her family in the loss of Gary

Zella and her family in the loss of Sylvester

Linda and her family in the loss of Tommy

Alice Ahlhardt recovering from surgery

TK Condren - recovering from surgery

Carol Witte - Cardiac issues - Pray for wisdom for the doctors

Ed and Lee Ehring need to move and are looking for a house to rent

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra - At home recovering from her accident

Cliff's dad has dementia and is not doing well.

Bobbie Schulte - Not feeling well

Mandy Forester - Brain surgery in February

John Forester - eye infection

Debbie and Dustin Gregory in the loss of Doug

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Prayers for those working in health related jobs, for protection. Especially those from our own families:
Karen at St Joseph - Susan - State School - Zella Johnson

Please remember to pray for those in our congregation that are not getting out during the pandemic

Pray for our country and the turmoil that's going on now