

“These Words of Mine” – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost –
– June 1, 2008 – Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28 – Pastor Scott Hirssig –

Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28 (ESV)

“¹⁸ You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹ You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ²⁰ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹ that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your

fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

“²⁶ See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: ²⁷ the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, ²⁸ and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known.

I greet you with grace, mercy and peace from God our Father, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, and the Holy Spirit, who lives within us as believers, empowering us.

Everyday, each of us comes into contact with spoken and written words. Through newspapers, televisions, magazines, books, cell phones and, of course, the internet, we hear, speak and read thousands of words on a wide variety of subjects. Along with all these sources of communication that compete for your attention, is the Bible, and sometimes, it's importance can be neglected. But, in Deuteronomy, the Lord proclaims ‘these word of mine,’ which tells us how important His words are and how we should treat them.

God’s Word: Eternal with Eternal Significance

Throughout the Bible, God’s word is proclaimed very differently than the sea of words from all other sources. For example, John, at the close of his gospel, writes the following, “**but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**” (John 20:31 ESV) There is an eternal significance to the words of the Bible. These words are given so that you may believe and, in believing, have eternal life. What could be more important than that which determines your future forever? The significance of most words we hear each day do nothing for our life in eternity.

God’s Word: Brings us to Faith and Keeps the Faith

Secondly, God’s word brings faith. The Bible provides the very faith for you to turn to God for help and salvation in your everyday living. Most of us are familiar with Romans chapter 10, verse 17, in which Paul says, “**faith comes by hearing, and hearing from the word of God**” (Rom 10:17 NKJV) This is the very faith that causes you to repent and turn from worthless idols, such as desires and people or things that you put ahead of God. The Holy Spirit turns you to the living God, who truly provides something different than the empty promises of the world. Our Lord Jesus, the living God who holds your future in His hands, comes to

you through the Bible. If your faith is lacking, or you have no faith at all, read the Bible. That is where your faith is created, sustained and grown.

God's Word: Living, Active, Sharp, Penetrates, Dividing, Judges

Next, the Word is also living and possesses the qualities to reach deep into your heart, soul and mind. We learn from Hebrews 4, **“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”** (Hebrews 4:12 ESV) This word is living. The Holy Spirit is right there, reaching into your hearts and minds with this sharp, active word of God -- discerning, piercing and bringing you what is needed.

God's Word: Breathed through men and women for us

We are told the Word is God-breathed. In 2nd Timothy, it says, **“¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV) This is breathed by God, and is useful for teaching. To rebuke someone is to identify sin and to warn of the consequences of wrong behavior. To correct someone means to provide the right answer, giving a person all the information from what we know to be true, the Bible -- always speaking in love. (Eph 4:15) This righteous life God has called us to involves training in godliness, which comes from the word of God. With this training, you might be thoroughly equipped for every good work and be able to give a reason for the hope that lies within you. First Peter 3:15 tells us that the Word is God breathed. That does not mean God dictated, and the writers just copied the words. God used the words of the writers and their style to communicate the truth. For example, Peter, a fisherman, spoke with different words and style than did Luke, the doctor. But, at the same time, the Bible is the very word of God. It doesn't simply contain words for you to pick and choose from, nor does it simply provide a basis for you to form your own opinion. Paul says in 1st Corinthians 2, **“¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.”** (1 Corinthians 2:13 NIV) These are the words of the Holy Spirit -- the words of God. Next, Paul tells us, through the Holy Spirit, **“¹⁴ The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”** (1 Corinthians 2:14 NIV) You need the Holy Spirit. You need to be a new person. You need to be redeemed. You need the Holy Spirit within you to understand the Word, otherwise it becomes foolishness. As you read, the Holy Spirit brings the Word to your heart and mind, and saves you.

God's word: Jesus - accurate

God's word is also accurate, and it is synonymous with Jesus. The Gospel writer John proclaims, "¹ **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** ² **He was with God in the beginning...**"¹⁴ **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**" (John 1:1-2,14 NIV)

Jesus is the Word. His words are accurate. He proclaimed the truth of what was written, even saying that not so much as the tiniest slash above the letter will pass away. All is fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18) He also equated what He spoke with that level of accuracy, saying, "**Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.**" Mat 24:35 (NIV) Our Bible is also complete and sealed with the words of Jesus. At the end of the last book, The Revelation, the completed written word says, "**Behold, I am coming soon**" (Rev 22:20 NKJV). The Bible is His love letter to you. Listen to that letter each and every day, as often as you can.

God's word – in your heart and soul (2) teach your children (3) write them so that days be multiplied

In Deuteronomy, there are specific instructions about the Word of God. God states, "these words of mine" are to be in your heart and soul. You are to teach them to your children. You are to write them where they can be seen and speak them where they can be heard, as a part of your everyday life.

Today, there is a general disconnect with God's word. It is not part of everyday life. The Word is not just to be heard and thought about on Sunday, but carried into every part of your life. We are living in a society that confines the Word to a Sunday morning church service, which many people do not even attend. This will be to our demise and our destruction. Adam and Eve had a perfect environment and a perfect relationship with only one restriction. However, instead of trusting God, they trusted themselves, and death entered the world, along with all its tragedies. In the relatively short time from Adam to Noah, the Bible states, "⁵ **The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.** ⁶ **The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.**" - Gen 6:5-6 (NIV). So, except for eight souls and a representative of each kind of animal, God destroyed that world. Later, God called a nation, Israel, to be His witness, but, they left Him and went their own way. As a consequence, Israel (the nation) was destroyed and held captive among the nations.

Now, He calls out to us, as individuals, through Christ, to be his messengers to a lost world. We are in this limited time of grace, as we fast approach the final judgement day, when there will be a new heaven and earth. Your calling, now, is the word of God, 'these very words of mine', as He stated. Discipline yourself to read the word each day. The prophet Joshua encourages us to, "**not let this Book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**" - Josh 1:8 (NIV). The receiving of God's word, day and night, is also

proclaimed in Psalm 1. The prosperity that it promises is stated in Psalm 37, where it says, ⁴ **Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.** ⁵ **commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.**”- (Psalm 37:4-5 ESV). Do you see the order? He provides, but it starts with resting in Him. It comes in prayer, pondering and thinking about the word, and asking for help. The very word of God, in your heart and soul, helps you in teaching your children and placing the Word where it can be seen, heard and lived. May God grant this to us all.

In His name we pray, AMEN May the peace of God that passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. AMEN.