

Theme: Where do we learn how to glorify God and enjoy Him forever? In His Word, the Bible.

I. Intro – Silver Chair

- A. Children given signs to guide them
- B. Repeat every day so won't forget
- C. Do at first, but then get busy, stop, forget
- D. This causes some real problems!
- E. Word is like that - God gives great gift
- F. We need to be in it daily, but often neglect
- G. Why is Word important for us?

II. Knowing God Through General Revelation

- A. God has revealed Himself in creation & conscience
 - 1. Creation - Rom 1:19-20 - plain to all; general
 - 2. Conscience - Rom 2:14-15 - natural law
- B. General revelation
 - 1. Generally available to all
 - 2. General in detail of what is conveyed
 - 3. Can not get Gospel from this!

III. Knowing God Through His Word

- A. Bible is God's Word (2 Tim 3:16; 2Pe 1:20-21)
- B. Not just thoughts of man - God's self-revelation

- C. This is why Scripture can equip us (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- D. Equipping through teaching, rebuke, etc. (v16)

IV. How Scripture Equips Us To Glorify and Enjoy God

- A. Scripture points us to Christ and Gospel (2 Tim 3:15)
 - 1. We can not glorify or enjoy God apart from Christ
 - 2. Constantly points us back to Christ & Gospel
- B. God speaks to us through Word (Heb 3:7-8)
- C. Scripture shows truth and error (John 17:17)
- D. We are fed by God's Word (Matt 4:4)
- E. Guidance (Deu 29:29; Josh 1:8)
- F. Power in struggle against sin (Psalm 119:9-11)
- G. Protection (Eph 6:13, 17)

V. The Call - Receive and Pass on Word

- A. Leaders - study, live, teach (Ezra 7:10) - demand this!
- B. Next generation
 - 1. Dt 6:6-9 - receive Word; pass on Word; consistent
 - 2. This is central to church's call and mission
- C. If we fail here, glory and enjoyment gone

VI. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see the importance of gift of Word?

1. This is a great gift from God to us!
2. Through it see Christ, hear God, truth
3. Through it fed, guidance, power, protection
4. It is the primary means of grace for believers

B. Are we receiving the Word?

1. This is not about a guilt trip - does no good
2. God is waiting to speak to you and me
3. Our soul longs to feed
4. We need a compass in fog of world
5. Encouragement to come to Word
6. Listen during teaching - it will shape you
7. Read - different ways times, but get in Word

C. Are we passing on the Word?

1. As God speaks, feeds, guides, etc - pass on!
2. Parents - read Word with your young children
3. Everyone - help us with next generation!!!!

D. How firm a foundation!

The Treasure of God's Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17

1 John 1:1-4

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How Firm A Foundation

since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20

Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, 15 since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them. Romans 2:14-15

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21

So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, Hebrews 3:7-8 (quoting Psalm 95:7)

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29:29

Do 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. Joshua 1:8

How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:9-11

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand... 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:13, 17

For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. Ezra 7:10

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

May the LORD, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times and bless you as he has promised! Deuteronomy 1:11