

- I. **INTRO** - The habit of studying NATOPS everyday to be a good pilot
- II.
- III. **Habits of Grace, The Word** - By developing a habit to abide in the Word of God, Christians grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus and joy in knowing their Heavenly Father.
  - A. Jesus was not speaking to non-believers or just anyone. He is speaking to, “Jews who had believed him,”
    - 1. So Jesus said to the **Jews who had believed him**, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31)
    - 2. Jesus is pointing out once you believe you cannot just stop at that fact, instead you need to also dwell in his teachings
  - B. John also uses the word abide or the Greek word menō to illustrate the importance of abiding or remaining in God’s word. It is this word John is using to illustrate the concept of remaining and gathering strength from being in the word and we see this in his other verses
    - 1. So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you **abide** in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31)
    - 2. Meno is also used when John speaks of remaining in the vine in verse 15:5-7 that Bret preached on.
      - a) “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever **abides** in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not **abide** in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you **abide** in me, and my words **abide** in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (John 15:5–7 ESV)
    - 3. In fact John uses menō 41 times compared to 12 times throughout the other three Gospels.
    - 4. “Everyone who goes on ahead and does not **abide** in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.” (2 John 1:9 ESV)
  - C. Summary - Goes back to what Bret said, The Christian life should be characterized by the joy of an ever deepening relationship with Jesus
    - 1. John wants to illustrate the importance of Christians having a relationship with Christ and remaining in Christ. This is why we will have, “both the Father and the Son.” 2 John 1:9
    - 2. So if we have to follow God’s commandments how do we enjoy Jesus instead of just checking off the boxes?
- IV. **Enjoying Jesus through the word**
  - A. Idea of telling Lauren I love her every day versus once a week

1. She knows I love her but not hearing it could cause her to doubt or fade in knowing this
  2. So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you **abide** in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31
- B. Without the Bible, we will soon lose the genuine gospel and the real Jesus and the true God. For now, if we are to saturate our lives with the words of life, we must be people of the Book. (David Mathis)
1. Saturating our lives develops a deeper relationship with Jesus
  2. We hear God's voice telling us that he loves us
- C. So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and **you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"
1. Builds off verse 28 and the freedom Jesus speaks of is freedom from sin
  2. Christians know the truth of Jesus being the Messiah and that truth allows us to know we have salvation
- D. Joy in God Listening to us
1. If you **abide** in me, and my words **abide** in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." John 15:7
  2. God listening to us will be discussed in more detail next week but we need to have his words in us, in our hearts.
    - a) This is why we cannot just read the Bible as just a check in the box, but we need to absorb it into our hearts
- E. Joy through being with Jesus - the Incarnation of the Word
1. John is the Gospel that helps define Jesus being the Incarnation of the Word seen in John 1:1-14 but more specific in 1:1-3
    - a) In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)
    - b) Being in the word is not about **just** knowing God's Commandments and being able to prove that to others, it is about hearing God's voice as you read it and remembering this word is God
    - c) Being in His word will help you see God in everything you do whether it is crunching numbers for work, playing with your kids, or attending church.
      - (1) Understanding this I hope allows you to look at reading the Bible not as a task or check in the box but as a Habit that you want to fulfill out of love for God.

## V. Applying the Word: Reading the Bible

- A. Read the Bible for Breadth and Study for Depth

1. What this means is there is usefulness in just sitting down and reading the Bible, but as you read it and something piques your interest dwell on that
  2. Reread it, in the next sermon you will learn to pray and I suggest praying and meditating on it
    - a) "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (Joshua 1:8 ESV)
  3. Talk to your family about what they think of it or an Elder or another Christian
  4. Look at the Church website and see if Bret has already preached on your passage
- B. Remember - "If you feel uncomfortable in the Scriptures and inadequate in the art of Bible reading, the single most important thing you can do is make a **regular habit** of reading the Bible for yourself. (David Mathis)
1. Having a schedule or goals helps me but it is important to be adaptable in your schedule
    - a) Have the ability to cut your routine short if you are having a crazy day or extend it if you want more depth
  2. In deciding how to schedule it or find time, I suggest you ask yourself is there anything I could cut out or that distracts some of my time?
    - a) Mathis states that it takes about **70 hrs** to read the Bible cover to cover which is less time than the average American spends in front of the TV
      - (1) That means if we replaced all of your time in front of TV with reading the Bible we could read it in less than a month
      - (2) Not saying you have to replace all the time in front of the TV but ask yourself if you could replace some of it
  3. To put it another way if you read for 15 minutes a day you can read the Bible in a year.
    - a) Maybe spend your lunch break reading for 10 min and then another 10 after breakfast or dinner?
    - b) Doesn't have to be one block of time could be several
- C. What this should not be though is me guilt you into not watching TV or feeling bad watching that extra episode on Netflix or Amazon.
1. Instead we should want to read the Bible because it is a chance to hear God speak to us through his voice.

2. It allows us to listen to what God wants us to do and more so that God loves us
3. It is time for us to be with God and with Jesus the incarnation of the Word.