



SERMON NOTES & PERSONAL/GROUP STUDY

Sunday, October 18

PASSAGE

Psalm 1

THEME

SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

NOTES

Scripture Engagement is connecting with God through His Word to get to know Him better.

v. 1 -- *“How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers!”*

- The person who is not characterized by evil influence is BLESSED -- this person is RIGHT WITH GOD and enjoys the SPIRITUAL PEACE and JOY that results from that relationship.

v. 2 -- *“Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.”*

- A godly person is not influenced by ungodly people -- they are influenced by THE WORD OF GOD.
- **Ephesians 5:15-16** -- *“Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk/live—NOT AS UNWISE people but as WISE making the most of the time, because the days are evil.”*
- Just as a cow chews on its food over and over, Christians should think about God’s Word over and over throughout the day.
- MEDITATING ON GOD’S WORD keeps you FRESH -- ALERT -- and SENSITIVE to whatever God wants to do in your life.
- How much time a day do you spend chewing on God’s Word?
- **Psalm 119:11** says, *“I have HIDDEN YOUR WORD IN MY HEART so that I may not sin against you.”*

v. 3 -- *“He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”*

- There is BLESSING that comes from KNOWING GOD and OBEYING HIM & HIS WORD — it does NOT come without its ACHES & PAINS -- but GOD GUIDES US through those times and ENABLES US TO GROW STRONGER in order to produce MORE FRUIT!

v. 4 -- *“The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.”*

- STRONGLY CONTRASTED against the GODLY person is the UNGODLY/WICKED person, who will NOT PROSPER like the RIGHTEOUS PERSON.
- This person is NOT IN A COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD -- they live according to their passions.

v. 5 -- *“Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.”*

- God will divide the RIGHTEOUS and SINNERS on the Day of Judgment as a man separates the GRAIN from the CHAFF.

v. 6 -- *“For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.”*

- God watches over the WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS -- this is why WHATEVER THEY DO PROSPERS!

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

Today's Takeaway — Knowing God's Word will help you get to know God better!

QUESTIONS

WHY IS SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT ESSENTIAL FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

- **Hebrews 4:12** -- *“For the Word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*
- **James 1:25** -- *“But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does.”*
- **Psalms 19:7-11** -- *“The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. The precepts of the Lord are right, making the heart glad; the command of the Lord is radiant, making the eyes light up. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are reliable and altogether righteous. They are more desirable than gold—than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb. In addition, your servant is warned by them, and in keeping them there is an abundant reward.”*

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** -- *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

WHAT MUST YOU DO TO BE A HEALTHY CHRISTIAN?

- You must MEDITATE on God’s Word DAILY — DAY & NIGHT.

STEPS TO TAKE...

1. Determine to make MEDITATING ON GOD’S WORD a DAILY HABIT.
2. Put it on your CALENDAR -- you schedule what is IMPORTANT — select a specific TIME & PLACE.
3. Choose WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO READ.

4 WAYS TO MEDITATE ON GOD’S WORD

- WRITE VERSES ON CARDS — display them in prominent places
- DOWNLOAD THE VERSES APP
- JOURNAL ABOUT WHAT YOU READ — read a passage - write down questions - write out what it means to you - find a specific verse and write it out several times.
- PRAY SCRIPTURE — find Scripture to include in your prayers —
 - PROTECTION (Ephesians 6:10-18)
 - SURRENDER (John 15:5)
 - FRUITS OF THE SPIRITS (Galatians 5)
 - THE LORD’S PRAYER (Matthew 6 & Luke 11)

SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE

- Read 1 chapter a day
- October (1 Tim) — November (James) — December (1 Peter)

PERSONAL / GROUP STUDY -- Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

This week, Drew continued our new series, “God’s Expectations of a Christian”. Each week we will be looking at the basics that God expects of His people. This week’s topic is Scripture Engagement.

Drew’s takeaway was “Knowing God’s Word will help us to know God better. When we truly engage with scripture, it opens God’s heart to our eyes. Most Christians will agree with the importance of Scripture but sometimes we fall into a trap. That trap is that we begin to look at Scripture through our sinful nature and we use it to justify our wants and desires and not God’s. We give in to the temptation to interpret Scripture from our human materialistic and temporary perspective and not spiritually and eternally. We must learn not only to engage with Scripture but we must also learn to view it through God’s perspective using the Holy Spirit.

In a typical day, what do you usually pray for?

Do you feel that Christians are caught up in the materialism of the larger culture? How might this impact our Scripture engagement and our prayers?

Is there any particular way in which your understanding of the Bible or a Christian doctrine has changed over the last 10 years? What caused you to change your mind?

Into the Word

Read James 4:4–10.

James wrote to believers who were struggling with wanting to be like the world instead of being humble before God.

James shows how “friendship with the world means enmity against God” (vv. 4–5). What are some examples of such “friendship”? Do you see this dynamic at work in your life?

What is the answer to this problem, according to verses 6–10? What is God’s responsibility, and what is ours?

How might humbling ourselves before God help us in Scripture engagement?

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Read Hebrews 4:1–13.

In verses 1-11, the writer of Hebrews compares the Israelites in the time of Moses to Christians. The Israelites heard the good news of entering the Promised Land but due to their sin, disobedience, and unbelief, they were unable to enter into God’s rest. We today have heard the good news of salvation through Christ but for the same reasons, many of us will be unable to enter into God’s promised rest.

The author points his readers to Scripture (v. 12). List how it is described and what it does. Do you allow Scripture to judge you, or do you judge it?

*What prevents us from allowing Scripture to put us in our place and make us useful to God? **Apply The Word***

Drew gave us several ways to engage with Scripture daily. For our engagement to be successful we must work with the Holy Spirit to understand Scripture from God's spiritual and eternal perspective. That will then inform us of how to pray and how to grow in our relationship with God.

Using the above, how would you respond to the following:

A person quotes Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.", as a promise that God will bless him and make him rich. (Hint: Who is God speaking to, a person or a people? Are these spiritual promises or materialistic?)

An athlete quotes Philippians 4:13, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength.", as their inspiration for the big win or their ability to perform on the athletic field. (Hint: Paul's focus in this chapter is being content regardless of the situation. The "this" that Paul is speaking of is being content whether you win or lose, whether you hit the homerun or strike out.)

Are there any other verses that we may be misinterpreting based on our sinful, selfish nature?