

The Necessity of God's Word

2 Timothy 3:14-17 - NCBC, January 1, 2023

Main Point: **God's Word is absolutely necessary for your spiritual life.**

- **Necessary for Steadfastness** (v. 14-15a)
- **Necessary for Salvation** (v. 15b)
- **Necessary for Sanctification** (v. 16)
- **Necessary for Service** (v. 17)

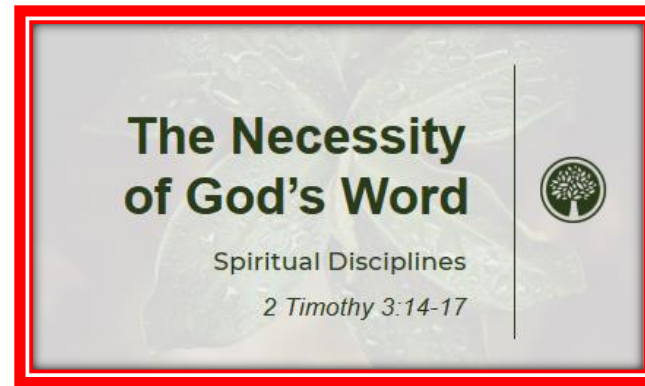
Application: **Be intentional to delight in God's Word.**

- How will I read God's Word?
- How will I memorize God's Word?
- How will I learn God's Word from others?
- How will I share God's Word with others?

Opening Announcements:

This January we are highlighting **our recommended resource, *Side by Side*, by Ed Welch**. This is a great compliment to our *Building Up the Body* ministry theme this year. Please pick up your complimentary copy in our Resource Center anytime this month.

<<Never Cease to Praise>>



It is so good to praise Jesus together with you all on this first day of the New Year. Happy New Year to all of you! Today we have the privilege of launching into a new year of ministry together by refocusing our attention on the necessity of God's Word. So please prepare to read from **2 Timothy chapter 3, verses 14-17**.



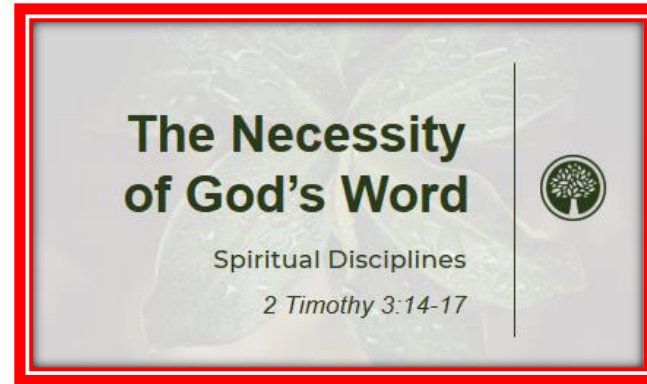
If you do not have a Bible with you today, we'd love to give you one. Simply raise your hand as our ushers come. You are welcome to take this Bible home as our gift to you, or just simply return it after our service by placing it on the table in the back of the room.

Next Sunday we go back to our regular Sunday schedule, and next week also starts a new session of Adult Discipleship Electives during our 9:30am hour.



So please give special attention to the 4 different classes that all begin next week. There's an insert in today's Worship Folder that offers more information on each class, but you really can't go wrong in any class you choose. Josh Gerber will be teaching on *Biblical Relationships*, Chad Leman and Mike Rassi will be teaching our *Church Membership* class, Jared Baergen will be teaching on *Spiritual Disciplines*, and Tysin Smith will be teaching through the *Upper Room Discourse*.

Please sign up using the insert or our smartphone app to help us coordinate room assignments for next week. It's going to be a great semester of growing deeper together in God's Word through these classes!



Now our Scripture reading today is **2 Timothy 3:14-17**. We're going to consider the Apostle Paul's exhortation to Timothy, who was serving as the pastor of the Ephesian church. Then after meditating on the necessity of God's Word, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together at the end of our service. So now let's stand to read God's Word from **2 Timothy 3:14-17**, in the **English Standard Version**:

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**We have just read from the book that God wrote.
You may be seated. Let's Pray.**

Approximately 22 years ago, I had an experience in Pekin that I haven't yet forgotten. I've changed the name to protect identities, but everything I'm about to share truly happened.

A coworker and I were scheduled to meet with a single mom named Jenny* at her home for counseling. When we arrived, Jenny nervously invited us both in, and we sat down and began to quietly ask her questions about how she was doing.

At one point in the conversation, I asked Jenny if she had a Bible, and her response was "What's that?" The more we talked the more I was stunned by the reality that Jenny had never been exposed to the Bible and its life saving message! Her life had quite literally been a trail of tears. She was not stupid, but poorly educated and withdrawn. She had lived her entire life in central IL, but she couldn't ever remember meeting a Christian before our meeting. She knew the names of God, but only when used in vain, and in such ways that she genuinely had no knowledge of their true and glorious meaning.

How do you react knowing that there are Jenny's living in our communities right now who are totally unreached with the Gospel? What do you think about the fact that there are people living in Tazewell County today without any knowledge of God and His Word?

Now ponder this: What if none of us ever had a Bible. Our church didn't have a Bible. No religious person anywhere had a Bible. What if there was no such thing as a written revelation from God?

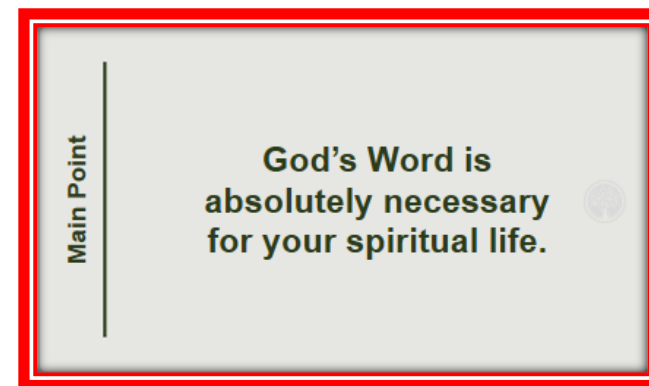
I can't imagine trying to teach anything of value on Sundays if we didn't have a copy of God's written Word.

Are you thankful that you have a copy of God's Word this morning in your own language? Are you absolutely amazed that God Himself wrote a book?

Today if there is a Bible in your lap... you are holding a translation of **a book that God wrote over the course of 1,500 years, using 40 different authors from Asia, Europe, and Africa.**

God invaded the privacy of His own Trinity and revealed Himself to us in writing – so that you and I could know about His love for sinners. All so that we could have the joy that comes from personally knowing Jesus!

This morning as we open our Bibles to **2 Timothy 3**, I want us to be thankful for God's Word since,



God's Word is absolutely necessary for your spiritual life.

The best commitment you could make at the start of a new year would be to really come to know God's Word. God's Word is fully sufficient and absolutely necessary for us. Nothing is more important for your eternity than your intake of God's Gospel. Peter teaches us that *we have been born again, not by perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.*¹ Jesus prayed, "*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*"² God's Word is the primary instrument the Holy Spirit uses in our lives for our salvation and spiritual growth.

So why don't we intentionally invest more of our lives in knowing God through the book that He wrote?

Perhaps we fail to read God's Word simply because we have no intentional plan. We lack intentionality. But holiness never falls into the lap of the lazy. Laziness cannot produce godliness, just like guilt cannot produce spiritual growth.

Titus 2:11 is clear that it is God's saving grace alone that rushes into our lives with the power of transformation. It's grace, not guilt, that trains us to renounce ungodliness and live godly lives. Only God's gospel can motivate us to be more intentional to delight in God's Word this year. And so please listen with open hearts this morning: God's Word is absolutely necessary for your spiritual life.

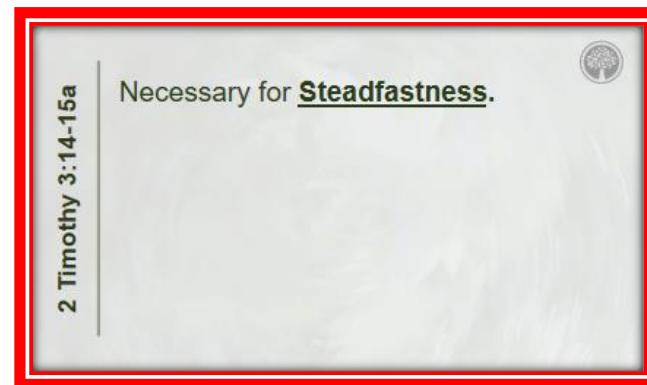
The Apostle Paul believed this. Here in **2 Timothy** we

¹ 1 Peter 1:23

² John 17:17

find Paul imprisoned again in a Roman prison for his faith, but this time he doesn't expect to get out. He's writing one last time to Timothy – the young pastor in Ephesus – to charge him to keep his confidence in God's Word, and to preach it relentlessly. He wanted Timothy to understand – that no matter what happened, God's Word was more than sufficient – it was absolutely necessary!

First, in **verse 14**, we see that the Scriptures are,



Necessary for Steadfastness.

So far **chapter 3** exposes the difficulties of making disciples for Jesus in the last times.

Timothy - the people you try to disciple will love themselves more than they love God. They will prefer the praise of outward religion, rather than the power of inner spirituality. You however, should continue to measure ministry success by faithfulness rather than outcomes. Expect to be persecuted – the world is only becoming a darker place.

*But as for you – **verse 14** – continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you have learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings...*

Timothy – continue, remain, abide – be steadfast in God's Word. False teachers are constantly seeking to advance something new...but Timothy – you can remain true and loyal to the Gospel.

The Gospel which you've learned from the sacred writings – the OT Scriptures. Certainly Timothy had been taught by his mother and grandmother (as we meet them in **chapter 1 verse 5**),³ and now in recent years he's been taught the fullness of God's gospel from Paul himself.

So it is the written Scriptures that empower the continued ministry of light into present darkness. The Scriptures are necessary for our steadfastness in ministry!

So dear disciple-maker – don't ever be ashamed of the Scriptures – for they are the power of God unto salvation for every person who believes their good news!⁴ The word of God is living and active,⁵ the very words of God Himself,⁶ which are able to convict and convert the soul.⁷

Children – God never lies. Whatever Scripture says is

³ Eunice & Lois

⁴ Romans 1:18

⁵ Heb 4:12

⁶ 1 Thess 2:13

⁷ Psalm 19:7-11

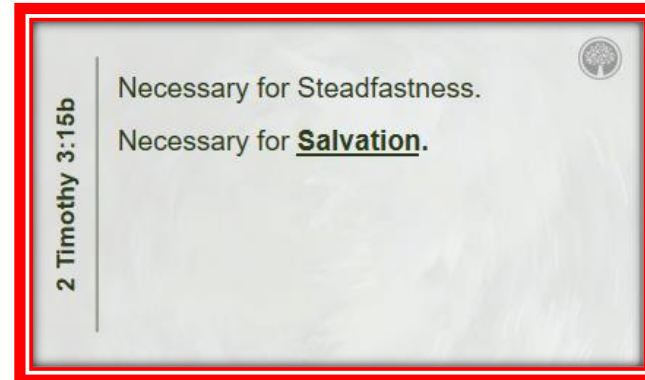
true and trustworthy.

Parents – continue in what you have learned, and have firmly believed. You can trust God's Word to sustain you.

Grandparents – endure suffering and fulfill your ministry. The Scriptures are trustworthy to get you through.

Church – If you desire God to work through your life to spiritually minister His grace to others – then please remember that the Scriptures are Wonderful Words of Life.

But God's Word is not only helps us continue in ministry, but at the end of **verse 15** we learn the Scriptures are also,



Necessary for Salvation.

Paul writes,

The sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Certainly you must agree that God's Word is absolutely necessary for your spiritual life.... for here we see the sacred writings – specifically the Old Testament scriptures – are able – they have the power like dynamite – to show people the way to salvation and help them know what they must do in order to experience it.

Notice carefully with me in **verse 15** – it's not the Scriptures that *grant* salvation – but they point to it. Salvation itself is only experienced as one believes in the message of the Scriptures through faith in Christ Jesus.

So then we must acknowledge that it's possible to have the Scriptures memorized, and yet miss out on the precious salvation they speak about, right? For we are saved only by God's grace *through our faith*.⁸ Yet faith comes from hearing the word of Christ.⁹

So how does God's Word make us wise for salvation?

First, the Bible reveals our need for salvation. Like a mirror, it shows us that we have sinned, and fallen short of God's holy requirements.¹⁰

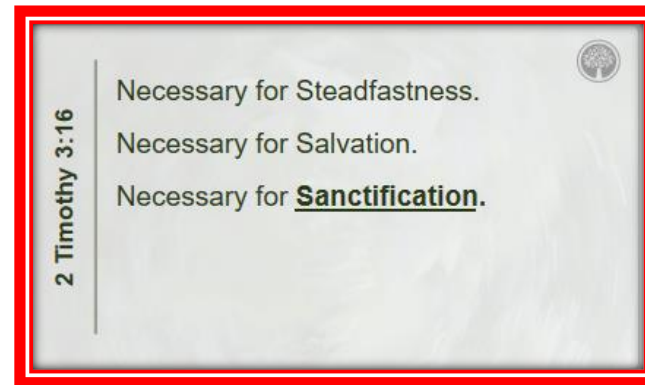
Second, the Scriptures teach us that no matter how well intentioned we might be, or how hard we try, a lost sinner cannot save himself.

But then the sacred writings repeatedly testify of God's grace for undeserving sinners. God's grace has made a

way for lost sinners to be saved. Christ died for our sins! He took our place, and if we trust in Him, He will not condemn us – but save us and take us to be with Him forever in Heaven!¹¹

So maybe today you are not “wise unto salvation.” You don't have a confident assurance of where you would go if you died tonight. You don't yet personally know God's grace and peace. Would you like some good news? Here's a book that God wrote for you... to read. Come believe the good news of God's love letter to us – it's a real invitation for you today – taste and see that the Lord is good!

Verse 16 punctuates this truth with a loud trumpet blast of joy... for not only are God's Words powerful enough to lead us to salvation by faith in God's grace...God's Word is also sufficient for your spiritual growth as a Christian.



God's Word is absolutely necessary for your Sanctification.

⁸ Ephesians 2:8-9

⁹ Romans 10:17

¹⁰ Rom 3:23

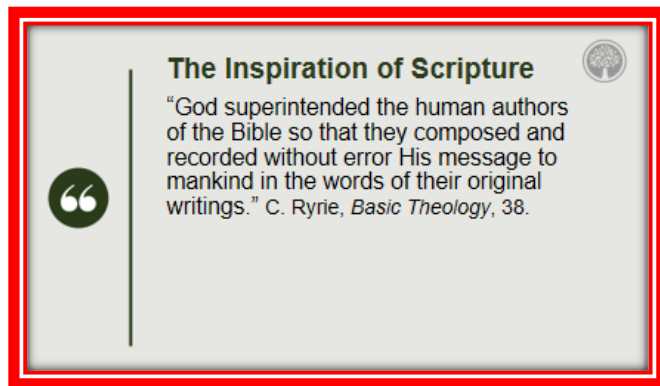
¹¹ John 3:16-18

The text says, *All Scripture is breathed out by God...*

Now pause, because let's make sure we understand the important doctrine of the "Inspiration of Scripture."

All Scripture is breathed out by God. This means that the Scriptures have their source in God – not man. The Scriptures were created as God moved through the unique personalities of human authors in history.

I appreciate this helpful definition of the Inspiration of Scripture from Ryrie,



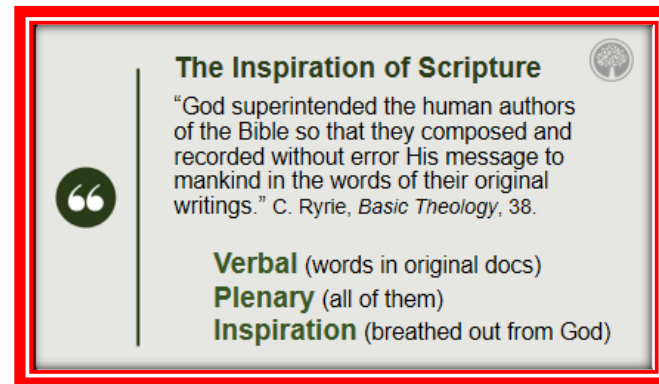
"God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings."¹²

2 Peter 1:20-21 says it this way, *No prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy [or Scripture] was ever produced by the will*

¹² C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 38.

of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

So technically, the doctrine of inspiration refers to the document, not the authors. The writings were inspired or breathed out by God, not the writers.



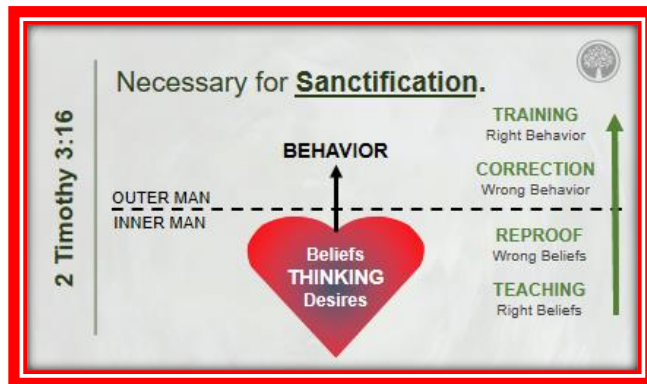
Therefore we believe in **verbal, plenary, inspiration**. Big words, but we believe in *verbal* inspiration – that the Holy Spirit communicated specific words – not just paragraph headings. We believe in *plenary* inspiration, as **verse 16** says *all* Scripture is inspired or God-breathed ... so the entirety of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation comes from the mouth of God. Translation: to read your Bible is to really hear the voice of God!

No wonder the Bible has been so attacked through history. For once we admit that the Holy Scriptures are the very words of God Himself - then we must accept His authority over every aspect of our lives.

Now admittedly, some of the Bible is hard to understand.¹³ And much of God's Word is hated and mocked by unbelievers today. But all Scripture – from the creation account in **Genesis** to the end times prophecy of **Revelation** is breathed out by God. And because it is God's actual words, then we know it is true. And because it is true, it is profitable.

How is it profitable? God's Word is necessary for our sanctification in 4 specific ways in **verse 16**: for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.

Paul wants Timothy to see how wonderful God's Words are for making disciples. Look at each of these 4 ways that Scripture grows believers:



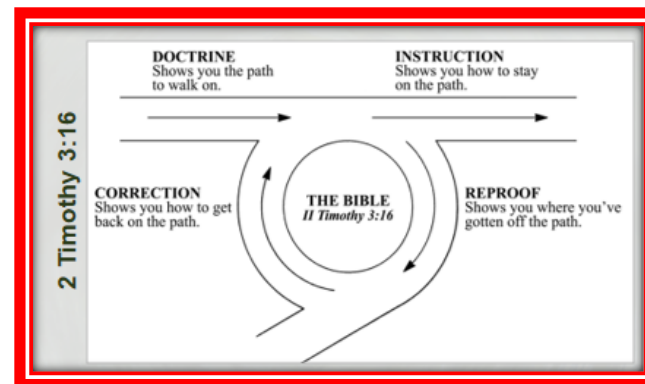
The first two – teaching and reproof – deal with our inner man – what we think and believe to be true inside us. The last two – correction and training – deal with our outward behavior and actions – how we live and relate with others.

¹³ 2 Peter 3:16

So Scripture instructs us what we ought to believe (that's teaching, or doctrine), and also convicts us of false teaching or wrong beliefs (that's reproof).

Scripture also corrects wrong behavior and educates us positively in righteous behavior.

We could also illustrate how God's Word works for our spiritual growth with a "Sanctification Roundabout:"

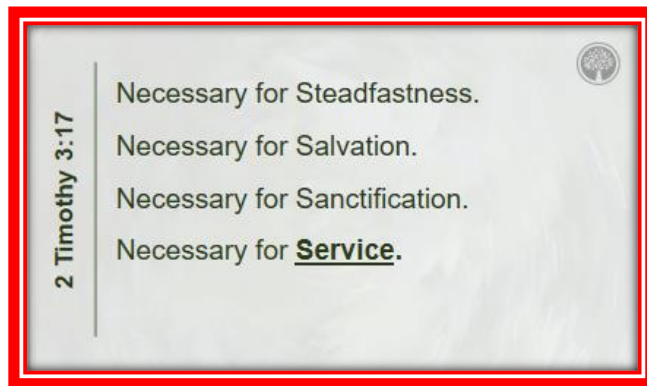


God's word teaches us right **doctrine** – so that we know the path we are to walk. But when we sin and get off the path, God's Word is useful for **reproof** – to convict us of how we've shifted our hope from God's grace.

And when we repent and turn from our sin, God's Word brings **correction** – graciously guiding us back into obedience – restoring us back to joy. And then **instruction** or training in righteousness is God's Word instructing or educating us towards greater Christ-like character and lifestyle. God's Word is absolutely necessary to sanctify us and bring us greater joy in our union with Christ.

Church - without meditating on God's Words, we will not grow spiritually. But when we hear and obey God's Words – they keep us from sin¹⁴ and sustain us through suffering¹⁵ – for they are the very words of God Himself!

Finally, Paul wants to make sure Timothy sees the necessity of the Scriptures for ministry, because **verse 17** teaches us that God's Word is,



Necessary for Service.

All Scripture is God-breathed, and useful for every aspect of spiritual life – why?

Verse 17:

So that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The reason God gave us His Scriptures is so we can

¹⁴ Ps 119:11

¹⁵ Prov 2:6

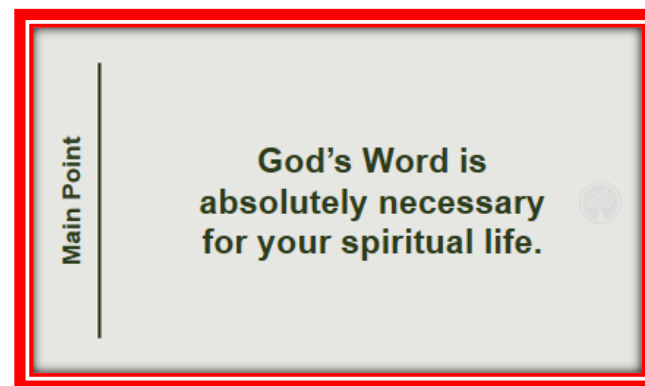
know Him personally and be equipped to help others know God personally.

Do you want others to know and love God like you do?

Throughout the Scriptures, the title “man of God” was used to refer to Moses, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, David, and Timothy. What did all these men have in common? They were all men who were devoted to knowing and sharing God's Word.

In other words, the purpose of your Bible intake is *not* just to understand some doctrines or win Bible Trivia. The ultimate purpose of our Bible intake is to equip us to know God and to do His work.

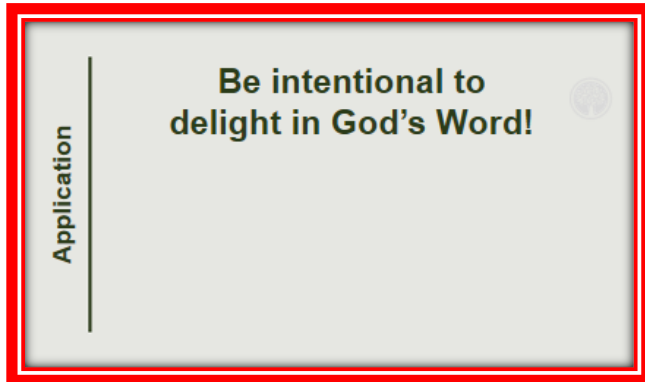
Christian – if God's Spirit is in you and you have God's Word - there's nothing else you need. This is more than a ministry manual... it's a love letter that has supernatural power to transform our own hearts, and the hearts of those we minister to.



God's Word is absolutely necessary for your spiritual life!

God's Word keeps us steadfast. Bring us to salvation. Sanctifies and grows us. And equips us for all ministry and service.

So as 2023 brings an opportunity for new beginnings,



let's all be intentional to delight in God's Word.

Let God's grace motivate you – He has richly supplied all that you need in His Word. Let's intentionally discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness,¹⁶ living out the reality of who God has already made us to be in Christ!

Now there's all kinds of ways we could intentionally delight in God's Word, right?

¹⁶ 1 Tim 4:7-8.



First Hearing – God desires every one of us to be hearing the words of Christ through biblical preaching.

Or **reading** the Bible – which usually means we're consuming larger sections of God's Word in one sitting – maybe an entire chapter – or maybe even multiple chapters. But we're likely spending less than 2-3 seconds on each verse. Reading exposes us to the overall storyline of God's story – the big picture.

But when we **Study** – we slow down...and usually focus on a much smaller portion of Scripture... perhaps spending several minutes considering one verse or phrase. Studying and **Meditating** go together – because now we “chew the cud” a bit more... really think about each phrase, and turn of the words. What is God really saying to the original audience, and what does it mean for me today?

Most of us say that we aren't good at **memorizing** Scripture –yet God's Word is full of promises and commands to let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly.

So let's be intentional this year to read big, but meditate small. If you only have 10 minutes each morning to spend in God's Word – spend 5 minutes reading, and 5 minutes meditating upon what you have read. Taking notes can be very helpful for study and meditation. The point is simply this – be intentional to delight in God's Word!

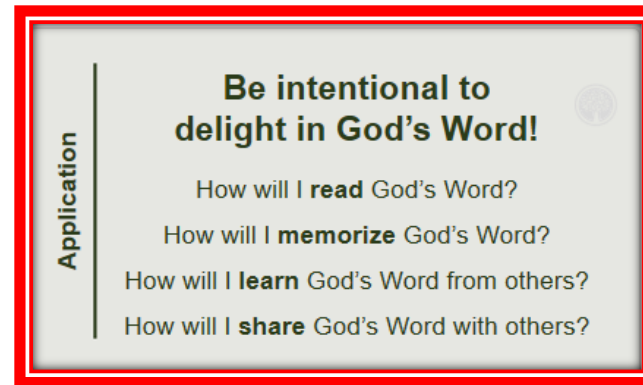
And make sure you don't neglect the final two means of delighting in God's Word.

Because all the meditation and memorization of God's Word means nothing if we don't **apply** it. **James 1:22** teaches us that we actually deceive ourselves every time we take God's Word in without applying personally in our own lives. That's sobering truth for us who live in this information age where there's a sermon or scripture waiting to fill our minds at the click of a button. Whenever we hear, we must be careful to do!

And believe it or not, **teaching** God's Word is also one of the primary means of intentionally delighting in God's Word. I'm convinced that God's design for teaching us His Word is to have us teach it to others.¹⁷ You can't teach someone else what you don't know yourself. And so God commands every Christian to be teaching others His Gospel. Sharing His Words with children at home or at AWANA, sharing with coworkers or neighbors or others we are mentoring.

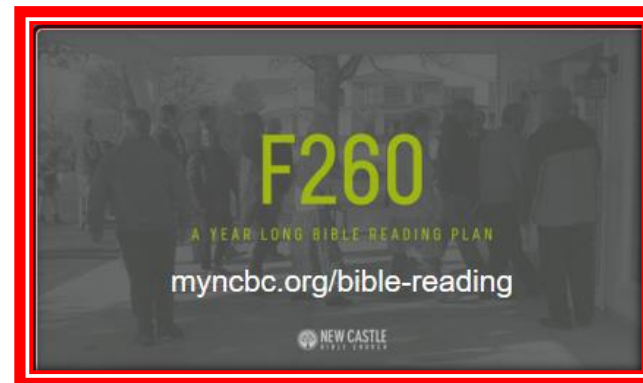
So please consider the four questions on your sermon notes page this morning:

¹⁷ 2 Timothy 2:2; c.f. Isaiah 43:10



- How will I read God's Word?
- How will I memorize God's Word?
- How will I learn God's Word from others?
- How will I share God's Word with others?

Process these questions sometime today. Invite others to live out your plan with you for your mutual joy. And if you don't know where to start, then feel free to join us in,



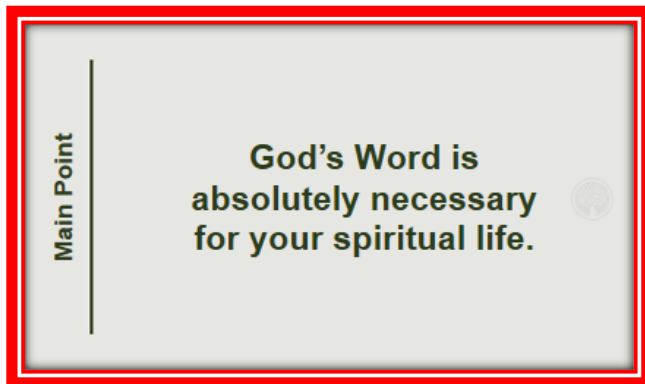
A year-long Bible reading plan called F260 on YouVersion. "F" stands for Foundations, as this plan walks us through Foundational Scriptures from **Genesis**

to **Revelation** over 260 days... 5-days a week. This plan also recommends a couple memory verses each week.

You can sign-up to join this Bible reading plan anytime using the QR code on the back of your notes page, or by using our Church Center App, or by using the resource link on the screen. Hard-copies of the entire reading plan are available on the tables at the exits, and we plan to highlight each week's reading in our Weekly Worship Folder throughout this year.

Obviously there's no obligation for you to do this plan, but if you don't yet have an intentional plan for reading and memorizing Scripture in 2023, we pray that you'd seriously consider joining us in this delightful journey.

Because rest assured,



God's Word is absolutely necessary for your spiritual life.

Shortly after William McPherson came to America in 1893, he was severely injured in an mining explosion. The explosion permanently blinded him, blew off both

hands, and badly disfigured his face. As William started to recover, he grieved that he could no longer read God's Word.

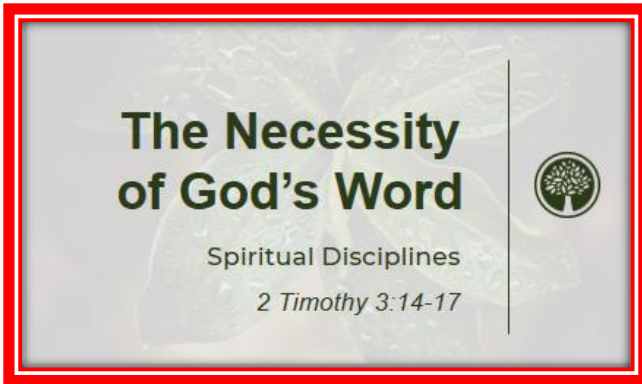
Then he heard about a lady who read Braille with her lips. Hoping to be able to do the same, he sent for some books of the Bible in Braille. Much to his dismay however, he discovered that the nerve endings on his lips had been destroyed by the explosion.

One day, as he brought one of the Braille pages to his lips, his tongue happened to touch a few of the raised characters, and he could feel them! Like a flash he thought, I can read the Bible using my tongue!

By God's amazing grace and with much diligent effort, William McPherson was eventually able to "read" through the entire Bible four times!¹⁸

Aren't you thankful God has given you His Word this morning? I pray you experience the joys that come from the hard work of intentionally delighting in God's Word.

¹⁸ Robert Sumner tells this story of William McPherson in his book, The Wonders of the Word of God. C.f. <https://research.lifeway.com/2019/03/22/how-much-do-you-cherish-gods-word/>



Let's pray to thank God for the gift of His Word now before we transition to remembering all that Jesus has done for us in Communion.

<<prayer. Amen.>>



Now we have a special privilege to start off 2023 by remembering all that Jesus has done for us. So if you haven't yet received the communion elements, please raise your hands as the ushers bring the cup so you can join with us in this special ceremony of remembrance.

After all, God's Word became flesh when Jesus was born to Joseph and Mary outside of Bethlehem, right? Jesus came to earth as the Lamb of God – the One who would be sacrificed in our place, in order to pay for our sins.

It's a marvelous and wonderful truth! When we drink the juice in a moment, the juice helps us remember how Jesus' blood was shed so that all our sins could be forgiven. And when we eat the cracker, and hear it crunch between our teeth, it reminds us of Jesus' body that was broken on the cross for us.

So loved ones... as we enter into a new year of ministry together...are you gladly trusting in Jesus' sacrifice for your undeserved peace with God?

You will never become good enough for God to accept you in your own efforts. You need to trust in Jesus' finished work.

So come all you unfaithful... remember Jesus is the offering. You must not participate in this communion celebration if you think you're good enough for Jesus. You must not participate in this communion celebration if you think you are strong enough to please God on your own. You must never drink this cup and eat this bread in a spirit of self-reliance or unbelief...for that would bring God's judgment to your soul.

Instead, this ceremonial meal is for the weak, the broken, the desperate, and the humble. If you are glad that Jesus Himself is your offering. That Jesus is your undeserved and yet joyfully secure future....then

remember now all that Jesus has done for you church!
Remember and rejoice!!

We'll begin by peeling off the very top clear plastic lid, in order to expose the cracker which represents Jesus' body.

On the very evening that Jesus was offered as our substitutionary sacrifice, Jesus took some unleavened Bread, and after saying a prayer, Jesus broke pieces off that large unleavened cracker, saying,

This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

Let's eat together now, and remember Jesus died for you. All your sins are washed whiter than snow because of what Jesus did in your place.

Amen.

Now before we drink the cup together, we're going to sing a love song to our Savior to express our gratitude for all that He's given us through Jesus. Please stay seated but sing out these lyrics with the humble dependence of faith and the joyful gratitude of one who has been forgiven apart from any merit or deserving.

<<My Jesus I Love Thee>>

O church – glory awaits all whom God has favored with His salvation. There's going to be crowns and rewards

and eternal joy in the presence of Jesus forever – for all who have been granted eternal life.

Communion celebrates all that Christ has done, and also looks forward to when we will join Christ around the King's table in eternal delight.

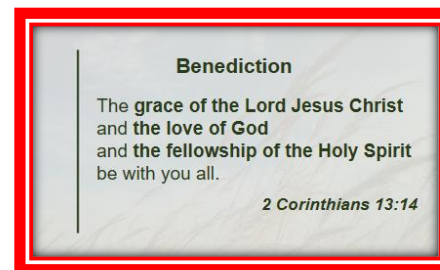
So let's peel back the lid to the cup, and cherish afresh the biblical promises that God gave us in His Word. We call these promises the New Covenant – because all our hopes for eternal newness rests on the promises and work of God alone!

So before Jesus went to the cross, He took a cup after supper, saying,

This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Let's drink together. Amen.

Please stand for our **Benediction** now as we depart:



*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:14*

Recommended Resources on 2 Timothy 3:14-17:

- Deuteronomy 8:3, 29:29
- Psalm 19:7-11; 77
- Matthew 4:4
- Romans 10:13-17
- Colossians 3:16
- James 1:18
- 1 Peter 1:22-25; 2:2
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/beat-a-path-to-the-word-in-2023>
- How to Eat Your Bible, Nate Pickowicz
- Read This First, Gary Millar
- How to Study the Bible, John MacArthur
- Habits of Grace, David Mathis

Recommended Bible Reading Plans:

- MyNCBC.org/bible-reading



← This is the QR code for our 2023 F260 Bible Reading Plan on YouVersion.

- Other YouVersion™ Bible App Reading Plans - <https://bible.com/reading-plans>
- <https://www.esv.org/resources/reading-plans/>
- Look at the Book™ 8-12 minute online Bible Study labs - <http://www.desiringgod.org/labs>

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

**These Questions come from Donald Whitney, "10 Questions to Diagnose your Spiritual Health."*

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?

"The Necessity of God's Word"
2 Timothy 3:14-17 - *Pastor Kevin Sauder*

Main Point: **God's Word is absolutely necessary for your spiritual life.**

- **Necessary for** _____ (v. 14-15a)

- **Necessary for** _____ (v. 15b)

- **Necessary for** _____ (v. 16)

- **Necessary for** _____ (v. 17)

Application: **Be intentional to delight in God's Word.**

- How will I read God's Word?
- How will I memorize God's Word?
- How will I learn God's Word from others?
- How will I share God's Word with others?

Your responsibility by God's enabling is to consistently apply the divine principles and truth you've heard (Phil. 2:12-20, 1 Tim. 4:7-9, James 1:22-27).

As you meditate on this message, ask yourself:

- How does God want my beliefs/actions to change?
- How can I accomplish this change?
- What is the first step toward bringing about this change?

Recommended Resources:

- Deuteronomy 8:3, 29:29
- Psalm 19:7-11; 77
- Matthew 4:4
- Romans 10:13-17
- Colossians 3:16
- James 1:18
- 1 Peter 1:22-25; 2:2
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/beat-a-path-to-the-word-in-2023>
- *How to Eat Your Bible*, Nate Pickowicz
- *Read This First*, Gary Millar
- *How to Study the Bible*, John MacArthur
- *Habits of Grace*, David Mathis

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
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