

## Precious & Powerful *The Word of God hear Him. 11.10.2020*

*Word of God powerful:* John 1:1-4; Genesis 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-3; Hebrews 11:3 - impossible to please God without faith (v6), so Romans 10:17; John 1:14. We have the spoken Word with the Spirit of God from the beginning; then the written Word and now also, the living Word – Jesus' words spoken to us that are Spirit, and they are life. John 6.

God spoke audibly to the crowds regarding Jesus, at His baptism, after He prayed asking God to glorify His name (John 12) and at His transfiguration, to Peter, James and John saying "This is My beloved Son, **hear Him.**"

Secondly, at the transfiguration 'this is my beloved son, hear him' speaking to Peter, James and John but speaks to us, today, **as believers in Christ**, the son of God, eternally.

Therefore, to us who believe, He is precious; 1 Peter 2:4-7. He, Jesus, is precious; the living Word, the Spirit of life is precious – highly honoured, costly, valuable, esteemed and beloved; both precious and powerful. In His obedience, God exalted Him and gave Him the name above every name. David acknowledged God and experienced it in such a way, that God proved Himself over and over again, that He is true to His name (which defines His position, His honour, His authority, His character, His report and His reputation): true to what He says, true to what He said He will do. Psalm 138:2. We magnify what we value.

This Bible; our library of 66 books; 35-36; one Author and one message. If we had only one foundational truth to read from, we would read it well – that God loves everyone and wants everyone with Him.

The Word of God – **is the spoken Word is the written Word is the living Word** ... present in the beginning with the Holy Spirit, right through to the end – unfailing Word, enduring Word, eternal Word – Jesus is/has the words of eternal life. From Revelation 22 - Jesus declares Himself as the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end, the first and the last... He declares **His words are faithful and true**; and **blessed is he who keeps the words** of the prophecy of this book; He announces He is coming quickly and bringing His reward with Him to give to everyone according to his work... blessed are those who **do** His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, a part in the book of life. **The Word of God is powerful – not to be messed with.**

The expert in the law – Luke 10:25-37 – Jesus illustrating His compassion for the lawyer ... never wasting a moment to break open someone's heart with the Word. His questions: *'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'*

He was aware of the Scriptures to love God with all you have and love your neighbour as yourself... check the Scriptures that were folded into the phylacteries... Loving God! Loving People! Loving Life! If we do 'this' first (the first two); which are one in practice, then 'love becomes the law of life!

He knew the Law; he believed he kept the Law; he'd been trained in the law of Moses and through this believed he was qualified to ask the question – perhaps not aware He was questioning the Author Himself. Jesus didn't ask him what his opinion was; he didn't ask him about any mystical experience; he didn't ask him what he thought his mentors might say; he didn't ask him what the scribes and pharisees taught; he didn't ask him how the priests and Levites and other scribes would interpret... but Jesus pointed him back to the Word – this is a flawless approach every time; people don't need our take on it; they need what the Word says on it. Those who presume to teach must take great care – God holds teaching accountable to the standard He has already provided – from which the lawyer had already strayed in his heart, and Jesus brings him back to the Word.

***'What is written and what is your reading of it?'*** What is written?? Needs no interpretation but does need effort.

How do we read it?? Needs time. If we don't receive the Word of God as our sole and final authority, then our reading will be perceiving (perceptions are not always truth, they each have a different function). We see that doctrine comes from it but doesn't rule over it; we see our interpretation does not rule over the intention or meaning of the Word but does affect our application or our practice of faith; we see our motivation towards the Word doesn't

change the heart of the Word but it does change ours and our application of it; God Himself may have spoken to us personally directly or prophetically but that is to be submitted under His Word - no prophetic message will ever contradict or contravene His Word. 1 Peter 1:19-21

**If the Word of God isn't our authority then we reduce it to our own reading of it and it becomes neither precious nor powerful, and therefore, we will fall short of the glory of God.** ('Did God really say?'). Jesus said, 'My words are Spirit and life' John 6:63. Peter acknowledged later – 'where would we go? You have the words of eternal life'. Hebrews 4:12 declares the Word of God is living and active; the lawyer in operating under his own reading of it, failed in the heart of it.

'What is your **reading** of it' may well be asked of us: *In what manner do I know this; what am I basing what I do on, how am I applying these verses; what am I doing or am I merely repeating sentiment.* Luke 6 Jesus challenged 'why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord' and not do as I say?' If we don't receive the authority and power of the Word as God, we will **not operate in the heart of God. From cover to cover, this precious Word unfolds one precious message. If everything** is read with this overall objective – God's heart that not one be lost, then we will have an inspired ability to perceive, interpret, understand, and apply correctly.

**Believing the authority of the Word of God.** The lawyer's reading was to justify his own position. If my final authority is my own understanding, then heresy is a danger; if I lean on the understanding of others, there may be an open door for control and manipulation – providing an exit sign for those who don't find the heart of God; self-justification is the sickbed for those who refuse to be well and self-justification is the excuse and exclusion factor that determine who we will extend the gospel and care too; at top and base level, we miss the call of God to love Him, and therefore *all* people.

Jesus brought the lawyer back to the Word of God, and challenged his reading of it, (the lawyer understood Jesus' question and challenge, otherwise Jesus would not have asked him that way). Jesus was drawing him away from self-justification towards his need to be justified by faith – moving him towards salvation by drawing his heart to the heart of God. So how do we **read what is written** in a way that pleases God; in a way that doesn't limit God; in a way that, with God, we accomplish His purposes.

How do we read the Word of God in a way that it works?

### 1. Receive the Word as the Word of God

*<sup>13</sup>For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*<sup>11</sup>These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:11 (the Bereans).*

2. **Hear for yourself.** *<sup>39</sup>And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of His own word. <sup>42</sup>Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for **we ourselves have heard Him** and we know (**we read rightly**) that this is indeed **the Christ, the Saviour of the world.**" John 4:39-42*

**Hear Him, and we will not miss His Heart.**