

The Word of Life and Living – Deut 32:45-47

The Treasure that is Your Life in Christ #6

Introduction – Even though we have seen that the Word is central in directing our worship here, I fear we still greatly underestimate the power of the Book we are holding in our hands, especially its ability to open, display, and dress us with the treasure that is our life in Christ. But whenever the Spirit of God goes to war with unbelief, this is His weapon of choice. By faith, it is to be used to tear down strongholds, including those of your own heart. By faith and through the Spirit, the Word brings forth life and then nourishes that new life in Christ. We are people of the Word because we are people of the Word made flesh.

Set Your Heart on All the Words – Moses is giving his farewell sermon, urging all to receive the gift of the Word of God. The Word must be personally received (“*Set your hearts,*” v46), faithfully passed on (“*command your children,*” v46), and “*carefully observed.*” It was by His Word that God created all things, including all life. It is by His Word that all things are sustained. It is only by His Word that anyone is saved in this life and has hope of eternal life to come.

It is Your Life - In every nuance of the word, the word of God is your life.

Eternal Life (1 Pet 1:23-25) – The word of the gospel is the means by which incorruptible seed brings a second life. We were born again through the word of God.

Sustaining Life (1 Pet 2:2-3) – Not only is the word powerful to save, but it is powerful to sustain that life as well. The Word is pictured here like your mother. Having given birth to you, it is only natural that you would turn to her for sustenance.

Purifying Life – It reveals our sin (Heb 4:11-13) and sanctifies us (John 17:17). As a sword, it is very efficient to lay us open and carefully dissect all of our secret thoughts and intentions. But it also works as balm to cleanse us, heal us, and purify us of all our spiritual maladies.

Quality Life – It makes all that we put our hands to good (1 Tim 4:4) and instructs us in what is good and lovely (Phil 4:8). When God created the world, He pronounced it all very good, and He did so by His Word. And so, it is by His Word that we learn to discern in this fallen world what is beautiful, what is noble, what is worthy of our notice and care.

Assures Us of Life (1 John 5:13) – The Word is given in order to take away our fleshly doubts and to evoke in us more experiential grace. It tells us, “God is with us”.

The Word is Remember-Food (Deut 8:1-3) – Forty years of wandering, being humbled and left hungry. Why did God do this to His people? These hard trials were given so that they would “*remember that the LORD your God led you.*” The way He fed them was unexpected and the hunger and manna together taught them important things. Whether God gives food from the dirt or from heaven, it is God Who gives it; and it all comes according to His Word. Man does not live by bread alone – because bread never comes alone. And so we learn that we live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

We are to see the Word of God becoming our bread and not stones becoming our bread. This flies in the face of seeing bread coming from dirt (stones) and not the sky all the time. It flies in the face of seeing hands make bread with or without faith in God. God did not create this world autonomous from Himself or His Word, but only eyes of faith see this.

How Then Should We Eat? – Looking back to 1 Pet 2:1-3, we see that we are to eat like babies eat.

Reading (Deut 6:6, 11:18) – The Word is compared to milk for a baby and bread to the saints. We need daily intake of the Scriptures. And like bread and milk, it is good to partake of over and over and over.

Meditation & Study (Ps 1:2) – Hebraic meditation doesn’t look like a New Age attempt at ‘out of body’ experiences. The Hebrew word has the idea of muttering to oneself. It is as if one cannot get that verse out of one’s mind, and doesn’t want to.

Hearing (Rom 10:17) – We underestimate this gathering, and we underestimate the value of hearing the word read and preached. But God has called us to hear fallible men preach fallible messages from His infallible Word and, with faith, expect to hear from heaven itself. As we grow in our understanding of this, we should expect to come prepared, hungry, attentive, and tenderhearted – ready to be transformed.

Singing (Psalm 95:2, Col 3:16) – Singing the Psalms is not a new idea, it is an ancient idea we are recovering. We learn what God wants us to sing about by singing His songbook, and we are blessed as God uses that to place the Word deep in our own hearts.

Applying (Heb 5:12-14, James 1:22) – Application of what you learn only makes the rest of the Word more clear. If you do not apply that which know, you cannot expect to understand the deeper things of God.

Not Hungry? - Three possibilities exist. Maybe you are not hungry because you are not alive; you are dead in your sins. Then hear the Word that brings life: “*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*” Or, maybe you are hungry but you are distracted by the baubles of the world, but then you will grow weak. Or, just as a sick child may have lost his appetite, you may be sick in your unconfessed and unrepentant sins. There is medicine (1 John 1:9). Peter specifically lists the sins of “*all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking*” that need to be laid aside to revitalize the natural hunger of a newborn.

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