

Friday: *The Word Implies – The Gospel is Double-Edged...*

Read: John 3:16-18 ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world...¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

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| <p>Reflect: Famous words those of John chapter three verse 16 are. Quite possibly that verse is one of the earliest portions of Scripture memorized by people when they enter into a covenant relationship with God. It’s rather natural I suppose – they appear to be light, fluffy, care-free – they basically sound nice...</p> <p>Yet it is a travesty to ignore verse 18. Please understand, I’m not thrilled that verse 18 exists – but we cannot ignore it. Well, I suppose we can...but then verse 16 does not make any sense (i.e., if Jesus had to save us, it makes sense that He had to save us <u>from</u> something).</p> <p>I wonder if the reality of verse 18 is why we often do not verbally share our faith with those we love (or anyone for that matter). Think about it; if we believe the Bible is true (which includes Jn3:18) and we share about Jesus with someone and they say “No” – what does that lack of belief indicate about the person? The gospel is sweet and bitter...</p> | <p>Respond: How much truth is there in the last paragraph of “reflect”?</p> <p>How many friends do you have that are not Christians? Are you praying for them?</p> <p>Will you enlist the help of someone you know to pray for you so that you verbally share Jesus with others? How can that help?</p> |
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Pray: Pray for Prairie View Christian Camp; another mission New Life supports. Pray for Bob Griffin and Larry Hayes – elders of New Life. Pray for a growing desire to talk to others about Jesus. The Youth are leaving for Know Sweat on the 22nd – pray for them. Continue to pray for protection from sin and strength during times of testing.

Saturday: *The Word Implies – We Must Act...*

Read: Zechariah 7:9-10 ⁹ “Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, ¹⁰ do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.”

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| <p>Reflect: The widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, and the poor. In case you missed it – the number of groups represented there is four. Four is an important number to the Jewish mind – it connotes completeness. These four groups all exist on the earth...so another level of meaning to this text is don’t oppress (or mistreat) <u>anyone</u> (cf. Gen1:26-27).</p> <p>“If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” (James 1:26-27)</p> <p>Holding our tongue is hard enough – but showing care for the orphans and widows? Wow! God is concerned about everyone. If we’re not concerned about everyone...then how does the love of God dwell within us?</p> | <p>Respond: Will you work with your group from last Sunday and go back to continue to show God’s love to those you helped only six days ago?</p> <p>How can New Life do a better job of caring for all people?</p> <p>What can you do today to prepare yourself for worship tomorrow?</p> |
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Pray: Pray for the National Missionary Convention; a mission New Life supports. Pray for the family you helped with groceries last Sunday – pray they sense God’s presence with them today. Pray that our worship service tomorrow will be pleasing to God. Pray for Ed Asbury, Keith Krause, and Mike Haag – deacons at New Life. Pray those the Holy Spirit is prompting to come to New Life will be obedient and come.

The Word Implies...

June 14 – 20

Most definitions for “value” have something to do with worth – like monetary value. However the values upon which we’ve been focusing are...

- Values, Sociology. the ideals, customs, institutions, etc., of a society toward which the people of the group have an affective regard. These values may be positive, as cleanliness, freedom, or education, or negative, as cruelty, crime, or blasphemy.

what get people moving. Values help to get things done.

This is why it is vital to get our values from God’s Word. Truth be known, a lot of “good people” do not value the things God values. How can that be? Perhaps they don’t read His word...perhaps they read only sections of it...I really don’t know. But this I do know, and must confess, all of my values are not properly aligned with God’s values – but I want them to be. I trust there are many here who want that as well.

It seems the values we have proposed for New Life are solid: a) Biblical Authority, b) Lordship of Jesus, c) Sanctifying the Saints, d) Evangelizing the Lost, e) Glorifying God. They are broad – but each has specific applications for us today. They also have implications for everyone in the world, whether they are a Christian or not...

God is the Creator of the Universe, we are accountable to Him. Obviously everyone can choose to not be accountable to God – but really that is living on borrowed capital. Ultimately everyone will realize we are accountable to Him.

In light of that – it is important to know what is important to Him. We can find out what is important to Him through His word – Biblical Authority.

- Deuteronomy 27:19 - Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.
- Malachi 3:5 - Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.
- Luke 4:18-19 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

Thankfully God is patient. Thankfully He’ll work through us for His glory as we seek to care for those He cares for...

Monday: *The Word Implies – Continual Prayer...*

Read: Luke 6:12-13¹² In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.¹³ And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:

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| <p>Reflect: Luke has already stated that Jesus was praying at His baptism (Lk3:21) and that He would often withdraw to desolate places and pray (Lk5:16). Jesus saw prayer as vital to His relationship with the Father. He took time out of busy experiences to do it; He also sought solitude for it. Apparently Jesus was continually making time for prayer...</p> <p>Later on Luke will write that Jesus was praying just before Peter confessed Him as the Christ (Lk9:18), and that He was praying when He was “transfigured” before Peter, James and John (Lk9:29). These instances (and undoubtedly more) led His disciples to ask, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples” (Lk11:1).</p> <p>Seriously now, it seems so simple, who needs taught how to pray? Since Jesus was also in prayer on the night He was betrayed (Lk22:39ff), I’m thankful He knew how to pray well. What if He thought He was being led, through His prayers, to not go through with the cross? What if His values had been different?</p> | <p>Respond: The “desolate places” in Lk5:16 is also “the desert”. In Scripture “the desert” is often a place of preparation (e.g., Numbers; Lk3:2; 4:1ff). How can prayer be a place of preparation for you?</p> <p>Has anyone ever taught you how to pray? Have you ever sought help? Have you ever read any books on prayer?</p> |
| <p>Pray: Pray for the CEA; a Kansas church planting organization New Life supports. Thank God for the privilege of worshipping Him yesterday – pray the Holy Spirit will continue His work and that we will cooperate. Pray for those to whom you delivered groceries last night – pray they sense God’s love for them today. Continue to pray for workers in God’s Kingdom (Mt9:36-38).</p> | |

Tuesday: *The Word Implies – It’s “Special”*

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

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| <p>Reflect: These are possibly among the favorite verses of many Christians. They clearly point to the importance of God’s Word – His Special Revelation.</p> <p>However, in these verses Paul is speaking (primarily if not exclusively) about what is our Old Testament Scriptures. The Bible we have was not in existence when Paul wrote 2 Timothy (or any of his letters for that matter) – in fact he (and others) were living it! So does this mean that only the Old Testament is inspired by God?</p> <p>In 1 Thessalonians (likely our earliest New Testament ‘book’) Paul says that the Thessalonian Christians accepted his words as “the word of God” (1Thess2:13). At the end of the letter Paul instructs them to read his letter to all of “the family” (1Thess5:27). This meant it was read in the same setting at the Old Testament Scriptures – which indicates the letter was on equal footing (i.e., viewed as authoritative).</p> | <p>Respond: How has God’s word been “profitable” for you? Have you told anyone about it?</p> <p>How much time do you spend reading in God’s Word each day?</p> <p>Are there parts of the Bible you haven’t read? Is there a reason why? Will you let me know? tnerb7@yahoo.com</p> |
| <p>Pray: Pray for Lincoln Christian Seminary, Manhattan Christian College, and Ozark Christian College; missions supported by New Life. Pray for the Purity & Unity of New Life. Thank God His Word is trustworthy and ask Him to help you be obedient to it – pray for endurance to do your part too. Continue to pray for God’s people to have boldness to speak for Him (Acts4:29).</p> | |

Wednesday: *The Word Implies – It’s Trustworthy...*

Read: 2 Peter 1:20-21²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

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| <p>Reflect: In light of Wednesday’s thoughts – do the above verses indicate that Paul was out of line in asserting his letter needed to be read in public? I suppose this could be true, but later in this letter Peter equates Paul’s words with Scripture (2Pet3:15-16). Peter knew others were reading them – and was glad.</p> <p>In another letter Paul wrote he took a ‘verse’ from the ‘Old Testament’ (Deut25:4), linked it with words from Jesus (Matt10:10), and called it “Scripture” (1Tim5:18). Evidently Paul viewed what Jesus had to say as authoritative.</p> <p>All of this makes sense doesn’t it? Creation clearly indicates there is a God (e.g., Rom1; Ps19) – yet we need to know specifics about this God. Are we accountable to Him or to ourselves? Does He love us or could he care less about what happens to us? Is our trust in Him useless, or will it be rewarded? Does He...</p> | <p>Respond: If the Holy Spirit was vital for the writing of Scripture – how important do you think He is for properly understanding it?</p> <p>If you think God is telling you something through prayer, or another person (or any other way), that contradicts His Word – which do you think is wrong?</p> <p>What are three of the most important truths you know from God’s Word?</p> |
| <p>Pray: Pray for Shiloh Home of Hope and Emporia Christian Schools; two missions New Life supports. Pray again for the family to whom you took groceries on Sunday evening – pray they are accepting of God’s love for them – pray we are willing to continue to show it. Continue to pray for God’s Word to spread rapidly (2Thess3:1).</p> | |

Thursday: *The Word Implies – He’s Lord...*

Read: John 5:18¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

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| <p>Reflect: While there is much confusion by many in today’s world about the deity of Jesus – the matter was clear in His day. Granted, “the Jews” in John’s Gospel did not agree when Jesus claimed to be divine – but the fact He made those claims was not lost on them. In other words, “the Jews” knew Jesus was claiming to be divine (many today think He never made such a claim).</p> <p>You may want to read all of chapter five to get a feeling for what took place in this instance. You’ll notice when you read the whole chapter that in verse sixteen the Jews were already at odds with Jesus because He did “work” on the Sabbath (as v10 also shows).</p> <p>You’ll also notice that Jesus did not back down from their challenge (actually He never backed down against those at odds with Him). He never denied working on the Sabbath, and after He was derided for “making Himself equal with God,” Jesus did not change His tune. In fact, He gets even more bold with His words and states that both He and the Father are worthy of honor (5:23).</p> | <p>Respond: Do you know anyone who denies Jesus’ divinity (i.e., being God)? What can you do about that?</p> <p>Do you think Jesus would be at odds with anything about New Life?</p> <p>Why do you think people today want to deny the deity of Jesus?</p> |
| <p>Pray: Pray for Cookson Hills (a Christian Children’s Home); a mission New Life supports. Pray for the worship team as they prepare tonight to lead us in worship on Sunday. Pray for Brent McCrory – the preaching minister of New Life – pray He will be truly led by God as he serves here. Continue to pray for open doors to share God’s Word (Col4:2-6) and the boldness to do so.</p> | |