

**TOPIC: THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN**

The will and purpose of God for mankind are discoverable in the written Word of God.

**KEY POINTS**

- ▶ The written Word we call THE BIBLE is not written from the intellect or wisdom of man. It did not flow through the mind of Socrates nor was it the product of a scientific theory of Einstein. No, it is the Word of God and the Scriptures it contains are God-inspired (2 Timothy 3:16).
- ▶ “God created.” The first thing we learn about this God in Genesis 1 is that He has creative power. The passage further explains that all things were created by Him, including us. We know from the first few verses of the written Word we call the Bible that our very existence is credited to this God who has all creative power in His hands.
- ▶ In fact, this chapter of the Bible goes on to say that the sun, moon, stars, and galaxy reflect His glory, and that we human beings—as simple or insignificant as we may be—reflect His very image. It is written.
- ▶ If we are in the image of the Creator, then surely the written Word must say more about the image of the Creator so that we can better understand how His image is reflected in us. What does He think about me? What are His thoughts surrounding this person who reflects His image?
  - Psalm 134:14 lets us know that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made”; verse 17 lets us know that His thoughts toward us are precious.
  - He has crowned us with glory and honour (Psalm 8:5b);
  - The very hairs on our heads are all numbered (Matthew 10:30);
  - Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39);
  - He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20).
  - God is for me! Who can be against me (Romans 8:31)?
- ▶ Not everything that people write is true or factual. Facts and theories change and books get outdated—but not the Bible.
- ▶ As Henrietta Mears once said, “Behind and beneath the Bible, above and beyond the Bible, is the God of the Bible.”
- ▶ The Bible is God’s written revelation of His will and purpose to man. And how do we know that? Because something gripped our souls when we read or heard the Word of the Lord. Something convicted us and led us to accept the Bible as the true and living Word of God.
- ▶ The Bible also lets us know that we have a God who is able, capable and willing to sustain us and meet all our needs. We have a God that can make something out of nothing. We have a God who is able to make the impossible, possible! (See 1 Kings 17:14; Daniel 3:25, 6:22.)
- ▶ When we are dealing with a Red Sea situation, we can go to the God of the Red Sea.
- ▶ When we find ourselves in the fiery furnaces of life’s trials, we can still hold to God because His Word says He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). He will give His angels charge over us (Psalm 91:11). He is our protector, our shield and the lifter of our heads (Psalm 3:3).
- ▶ There are times, however, when we read the Word, that we chew but we do not swallow. In other words, it is before us, but not in us.

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12

- ▶ When hungry, you don’t open the fridge and cupboards, look at all the good things you could possibly have, then close the door and immediately become full. You have to prepare the meal you would like to eat, chew and swallow it.
- ▶ The Word of God should be no less. It should penetrate the very essence of our soul and lay it open. When we feed on the Word of God, it should strengthen, motivate and encourage us.
- ▶ As Christians, we cannot allow the enemy of our souls to outsmart us, to keep us in defeat because we do not understand the power that is in the Word of God; because we do not allow the Word to sustain us in every area of our lives.
- ▶ God is not impressed with our eloquence in speaking His Word, with how many scripture verses we are able to quote. God is impressed when His Word becomes alive in us; when we become not only hearers, or readers, or reciters of the Word but doers of His Word!
- ▶ The Word of God is no ordinary book. It is food for your soul, it is your life. It is your roadmap to eternity.
- ▶ The Word of God is dramatic yet religious, religious yet philosophical. It is scientific and at the same time spiritual. The Word of God is poetic, motivational, relational, educational, romantic, humorous and inspirational.
- ▶ Its opponents have tried to prove it false and destroy it. Its true believers have staked their lives on what it says. Its contents infuriate many among the culturally elite, yet the same contents inspire those considered to be the “least” by the world to rise above their circumstances, by faith, while radiating God’s glory.
- ▶ No matter your personality trait, this written Word, The Bible, is perfect for you. It is the Word of God, and you and God are a perfect match.

**DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS**

1. Do you start your day with prayer, a scripture, a devotional, etc., or do you go full steam ahead?
2. From your own experience, is your day—or your attitude—different when you include talking to God and/or reading His Word? How so and do you have an example of such an instance?
3. What are some of the things you have discovered in God’s Word in regard to His will for your life?
4. What are some of your go-to scriptures when dealing with a tough situation or when needing encouragement? Encourage one another with these words of life taken from the Scriptures.




**Prayer Time**




Lord, help me to immerse myself more deeply in Your Word, so that I may discover Your purpose for my life. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017**

**NOTES**

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

 (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)

 (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

L.G. Ice-Breaker: What are methods you use in order to remember something very important? What are the consequences when you don't use it?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---