

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Make Your Bible Come Alive

SERMON REFERENCE: Psalm 119

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2146

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) If we do not know, love, understand, practice and obey the Word of God, we will not be victorious Christians.
- b) Knowledge is power in any realm:
 - i) Business
 - ii) Athletics
 - iii) Theology
- c) If you knowledge in good things, you do good.
 - i) If you have knowledge in bad things, you are a wicked person.
 - (1) Potentially a powerfully wicked person, if you have knowledge.
- d) Laziness accepts half-truths
- e) Arrogance thinks it does not need truth.
- f) Knowledge and truth transforms us.
 - i) "We are not what we think we are. What we think, we are."
 - ii) Proverbs 23:7
 - (1) If knowledge is power, we need the knowledge of the Word of God to have spiritual power.
 - (2) We need to be molded, motivated and managed by the Word of God.
 - (a) But for many Christians, the Bible remains a closed book, a mysterious book; they do not understand the Bible.
- g) Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm in the Bible.
 - i) It is an acrostic.
 - (1) A writing that starts with a certain arrangement of letters that form additional words.
- h) Each verse in Psalm 119 deals with the Word of God so that we might know and understand His Word.
 - i) This is an acrostic on the Hebrew Bible
 - ii) There are 22 stanzas.
 - (1) Each stanza, although we cannot tell in English, starts with a different letter in the Hebrew alphabet.
 - (a) Each verse within the individual 22 stanzas starts with the same letter in the Hebrew alphabet.
 - iii) Each verse deals with the Word of God.

2) WE MUST APPRECIATE THE VIRTUES OF THE WORD OF GOD

- a) If we do not appreciate the virtues of the Word of God, then we will have no desire to learn or know the Word.
- b) Virtues of the Word of God:
 - i) It is a timeless book.
 - (1) Psalm 119:89
 - (a) The Bible is not the book-of-the-month, or the book-of-the-year, it is the book of the ages.
 - (b) It is an unchanging book.
 - (2) Psalm 119:152

- (a) It is done; it is settled in Heaven.
- (3) Psalm 119:160
 - (a) Other books come and go; the Bible is here forever because it was founded in Heaven.
 - (i) Thousands of years have passed.
 - (ii) Empires have risen, fallen and are gone.
 - (iii) Civilizations have changed and re-changed.
 - (iv) Yet, the Bible stands.
 1. Emperors have decreed the extermination of the Bible.
 2. Atheists laugh at and have railed against the Bible.
 3. Agnostics cynically sneer at the Bible.
 4. Liberals move Heaven and Earth to remove the miracles from the Bible.
 5. Materialists ignore the Bible.
 6. Radicals and cultists rave over it.
 7. One way to know the Bible is the Word of God; it has stood up under so much shoddy preaching.
 8. Dr. Robert G. Lee stated, "All of its enemies have not torn one hole in its holy vesture, nor stolen one flower from its wonderful garden, nor diluted one drop of honey from its abundant have, nor broken one string on its thousand-stringed harp, nor drowned one sweet word in infidel ink."
- (4) 1 Peter 1:25
 - (a) God's Word endures forever.
- (5) The Bible is timeless and indestructible.
- ii) It is a truthful book.
 - (1) Psalm 119:142
 - (2) Psalm 119:151
 - (3) Psalm 119:160
 - (4) John 17:17
 - (5) In a world that has lost its appreciation for truth, we can say without stutter or stammer that the Bible is true.
 - (a) There are many frontal attacks by those who rail against the truth of the Bible.
 - (b) Others want to substitute their feelings or experiences for the truth of the Bible.
 - (i) They do not necessarily deny the Bible, but they want to replace it with their modern psychology and philosophy.
 - (6) 1 Corinthians 14:37-38
 - (a) There were some in Corinth who had gotten off track into tongues and prophecies and visions and ecstasies and Paul was trying to set them straight.
 - (b) But if you are actually looking for truth, you can find it in the Bible.
 - (7) 2 Timothy 3:16

- (a) This speaks of all holy writings, referring to the Scriptures.
- (b) The word “inspiration” is used only once in the Bible; it is “theopneustos,” which literally means “God breathed.”
 - (i) “Theo” means God.
 - (ii) “Pneustos” meaning the breath of God
- (c) Matthew 4:4
 - (i) This passage refers to the Bible.
 - (ii) It is not simply that God breathed into the Scriptures; God breathed the Scriptures out.
 - (iii) He used human penman but their writings were the voice of God as God was speaking.
 - 1. 2 Peter 1:21
- (d) The phrases: “the Word of the Lord,” “The Word of God,” “God Spake,” “The Lord said,” or “Thus saith the Lord” can be found 388 times in the Old Testament.
- iii) It is a treasured book.
 - (1) Psalm 119:72
 - (a) Is the Bible better to you than gold and silver, rubies and diamonds, bonds and stocks?
 - (2) Psalm 119:103
 - (3) Psalm 119:127
 - (4) Saints, heroes and martyrs have pillowed their head on the Word of God as they walked through the chilly waters of death.
 - (5) The early church loved the Word of God.
 - (a) They argued very little about it.
 - (b) They preached it
 - (c) They proclaimed it.
 - (d) They pronounced it.
 - (e) They poured it forth like hot lava.
 - (f) They loved it.
 - (g) They lived it.
 - (h) They practiced it.
 - (i) They trusted it.
 - (j) They obeyed it.
 - (k) They claimed it constantly.
 - (6) The Bible is trusted because, “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

3) WE MUST ASSIMILATE THE VITALITY OF THE WORD OF GOD

- a) “Vitality” means “alive.”
- b) The Bible is a living book.
 - i) Hebrews 4:12
 - (1) The word “quick” means “alive.”
 - (a) It is the word we get our word “zoo” and zoology” from; it is “zoan.”

- (b) “Energies” means alive and is the word we get our word “energy” from.
 - (c) The Word of God is living and energetic.
- ii) John 6:63
 - (1) The Bible is vital and pulsates with life.
- iii) No matter how much we appreciate the Word of God, if we do not assimilate it what good is it to us?
- c) How do we assimilate the Word of God?
 - i) Pray over it.
 - (1) Psalm 119:12
 - (a) Ask God to teach you; to be your teacher.
 - (2) What will happen when we pray over it?
 - (a) Our eyes will be opened.
 - (i) Psalm 119:18
 - 1. There are scales over your eyes until God takes them off so that you can read His Word.
 - (ii) Luke 24:45
 - (b) Our hearts will be stirred.
 - (i) Psalm 119:36
 - 1. If you do not have a desire in your heart for the Word of God, ask God to incline your heart, move your heart, open your eyes and stir your heart.
 - (c) Our minds will be enlightened.
 - (i) Psalm 119:73
 - 1. Ask God to give you understanding of what you are reading.
 - (d) When we pray our eyes are opened, our heart is moved and our mind is enlightened to understand the Word of God.
- ii) Ponder it.
 - (1) Psalm 119:15
 - (2) Psalm 119:147-148
 - (a) Get up early in the morning and have a quiet time with the Word of God and the Lord.
 - (b) It takes time to ponder the Word of God; whether you have to stay up late or get up early.
 - (c) Read the Bible with a pen in hand so that you can write down anything that God gives you while you read.
 - (i) This shows that you are expecting to receive a word from God.
 - (ii) The weakest ink is better than the strongest memory.
 - (d) Don't just jump into the middle of a book with no rhyme or reason.
 - (i) Have a plan for your reading.
 - (3) When reading the Bible, remember that it contains many different forms of speech:
 - (a) See poetry as poetry,
 - (b) See prophecy as prophecy,

- (c) See precept as precept,
- (d) See promise as promise,
- (e) See proverb as proverb.
- (f) Do not try to make proverbs a promise; a proverb is a proverb.
 - (i) A proverb is a general principle, generally applied that brings a general result.
- (g) When reading the Bible, ask yourself, “Is this a precept, a prophecy, prose, proverb or a promise?”
- (4) The Bible is to be interpreted both figuratively and literally.
 - (a) The Bible is full of symbols.
 - (i) In Revelation, the devil is symbolized as a huge dragon.
 - (ii) His tail is so long it sweeps a third of the stars from Heaven.
 - (iii) The stars are the fallen angels.
 - (b) When we read symbolism in the Bible, find out what the symbol stands for and then literally apply it.
 - (i) When you get in to the Word of God: pray over it, ponder it and then ask God to teach you.
- (5) Ask these questions when studying the Bible:
 - (a) Is there a promise to claim?
 - (b) Is there a lesson to learn?
 - (c) Is there a blessing to enjoy?
 - (d) Is there a command to obey?
 - (e) Is there a sin to avoid?
 - (f) Is there a new thought to carry with me?
- iii) Preserve it.
 - (1) Psalm 119:11
 - (2) Psalm 119:16
 - (a) You preserve it and hide it down in your heart.
 - (3) Memorize the Scriptures.
 - (a) We function by memory.
 - (b) Memory comes with concentration, motivation, and use.
 - (c) Our mind can be like a decorative box; beautiful on the outside but full of junk.
 - (d) Our mind is like a garden that needs to be weeded to allow the flowers and vegetables to grow.
- iv) Practice it.
 - (1) Psalm 119:1-5
 - (a) It is not enough to recite the promises without obeying the commandments.
 - (2) If we want to learn more about the Word of God, then obey the parts we know.
 - (a) Luke 8:18
 - (i) The more you obey, the more you learn.

- (ii) “It is not that part of the Bible that I don’t understand that gives me so much trouble, it’s the part I do understand.”
 - (3) You can understand when the Bible gives clear and plain commandments.
 - v) Proclaim it.
 - (1) Psalm 119:13
 - (2) Psalm 119:27
 - (3) Psalm 119:46
 - (4) Psalm 119:172
 - (a) Let the Word of God be constantly in your mouth.
 - (b) Stow it in your heart, show it in your life and sow it in the world.
 - (c) The more of the Word of God we give away, the more of it will stick with us.
- 4) WE MUST APPROPRIATE THE VALUES OF THE WORD OF GOD
 - a) The knowledge we have will become transformational.
 - i) It will be a source of victory.
 - (1) Psalm 119:45
 - ii) It will be a source of growth.
 - (1) Psalm 119:32
 - (2) If we do not learn to feed ourselves with the Word of God, we are not going to grow.
 - (3) 1 Peter 2:2
 - iii) It will be a source of joy.
 - (1) Psalm 119:54
 - (2) Psalm 119:111
 - (3) John 15:11
 - iv) It will be a source of power.
 - (1) Psalm 119:28
 - (2) Hebrews 4:12
 - v) It will be a source of guidance.
 - (1) Psalm 119:105
 - 5) CONCLUSION
 - a) The Word of God will give us all these things.
 - b) If we want joy, power, victory, the ability to overcome, we can appropriate them after we assimilate them and then we will appreciate them.
 - c) The Bible is a two-edged sword, if it does not cut to heal you, it will cut to slay you.
 - d) The Bible is a savor of life unto life and death unto death.
 - e) John 3:16
 - f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16