

Conclusion:

- ✚ The Bible is God's Word!
- ✚ God does work through the Bible to give spiritual life!
- ✚ God does work through the Bible to richly bless disciples of Jesus Christ who faithfully use it!

So, do YOU believe in Jesus? Is He YOUR Savior?

Notice what Jesus said to such people about the *continuing* use of His Word: ^{NAS} **John 8:31** "Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you abide [continue, remain] in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine [**And what are the great benefits?**]; ³² and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'"

Take ONE minute to indicate the ways in which YOU are going to use God's Word *from this day forward*:

- Attend Sunday Bible Class.
- Attend Wednesday Bible Class.
- Attend Dr. Giessler's Thursday Bible Class (at Lutheran West High School in Rocky River).
- One verse – memorize one every week.
- One chapter – read, understand, and apply every day.
- Meditations – read, understand, and apply every day.
- Portals – read, understand, and apply every day.

May God grant that each one of our lives – *from this day forward* – are marked with a ➔serious, ➔ongoing, ➔beneficial use of His Holy Word! And all God's people said? *Amen!*

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Let's Be Disciples of Jesus Christ – Part 3

Read ➔ *Daily spiritual nourishment!*

Disciples feed on God's Word for peace, strength, and guidance!

Based on Various Passages



18th Sunday after Pentecost, 17th after Trinity – 2010
September 26 ➔ 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends, last week we learned that disciples of Jesus Christ have *spiritual priorities*; today we learn that disciples of Jesus Christ continue to ✚read, ✚study, ✚learn, and ✚apply God's Holy Word in their daily lives!

Most things in this life are *very temporary*, but Isaiah wrote: ^{NAS} **Isaiah 40:8** "...the word of our God stands forever."

Therefore, we should treasure it – *because of its longevity* but especially *because God works through His Word in our lives to*: ♥bring us to Christ, ♥equip us to live for Christ, and ♥keep us in Christ – *until He takes us home to heaven!*

May God work through this sermon to encourage all of us to be more diligent in daily receiving the blessings of His Word!

1. **The BIBLE – It Is God’s Word:**

- a. ^{NAS} **2 Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture is inspired by God... / ^{NIV} All Scripture is God-breathed...” In other words, it came → from His mouth → to the Holy Spirit → to the prophet who wrote it down *for our benefit!*
- b. ^{NIV} **1 Thessalonians 2:13** “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, *but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.*” *God wants to work through His Word in every one of our daily lives!*

2. **The BIBLE – God Works through It to Give Spiritual Life:**

- a. Notice the *instrument* through which God imparts spiritual life: ^{NIV} **James 1:18** “God chose to give us spiritual birth through the word of truth...”
^{ESV} **1 Peter 1:23** “...you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God...”
- b. Paul wrote these words to Timothy: ^{NAS} **2 Timothy 3:15** “...from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” For anyone who *does not yet have faith in Jesus Christ*, what is the answer? *Get that person into the Word*; then God will do His loving work to:
♥ convict him of his sins, ♥ show him his inability to save himself, ♥ show him Jesus’ finished work for his salvation, and ♥ unite him to Jesus Christ his Savior!

3. **The BIBLE – God Works through It to Richly Bless Us:**

Notice what it says in these key passages:

- a. ^{NAS} **2 Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture is... profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ^{RSV 17} that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” Since disciples of Jesus Christ are to *learn and keep* everything Jesus commanded, God works through His Word to: ✦ teach us, ✦ express His disapproval of our sins, and ✦ show us what is right for His holy children!
- b. ^{NIV} **Proverbs 30:5** “Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.” Therefore, *God’s Word is without error*; furthermore, we are protected by God as we immerse ourselves in His Holy Word!
- c. ^{NAS} **Joshua 1:8** “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” God wants to richly bless us *in the most important ways*; He will do so through His Word!
- d. ^{ESV} **Acts 20:32** “And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” So what does God want to do in our lives through His Word? *Mature us in Christ and eventually welcome us into His kingdom*, which is our eternal inheritance (Matt. 25:34) *through Jesus Christ!*