

**Life in the Word**  
**Week 1**  
**“The Written AND Living Word”**

**The Importance of Reading/Studying the *Written Word***

James 1:21 – “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and **receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**”<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

1 Peter 1:23 – “...since you have been **born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God...**”

John 17:7 – “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

2 Timothy 3:16-4:4 – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”<sup>4:1</sup> I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup>preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,<sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”

John 8:31-32 – “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, **‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,’<sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’** ...<sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me **because my word finds no place in you.**<sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. ...’<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.’<sup>43</sup> **Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.**<sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil...<sup>47</sup> **Whoever is of God hears the words of God.** The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

Richard Baxter (*The Reformed Pastor*) - “It is the sign of a distempered [bad] heart that loseth the relish of the Scripture excellency. For there is in a spiritual heart a co-naturality to the Word of God, because this is the seed which did regenerate him. The Word is that seal which made all the holy impressions that are in the hearts of true believers, and stamped the image of God upon them; and, therefore, they must needs be like that Word and highly esteem it as long as they live.”

Charles Spurgeon - “You are not Bible readers. You say you have the Bible in your houses; do I think you are such heathens as not to have a Bible? But when did you read it last? How do you know that your spectacles, which you have lost, have not been there for the last three years? Many people have not turned over its pages for a long time, and God might say unto them, ‘I have written unto you the great things of my law, but they have been accounted unto you a strange thing.’ Others there be who read the Bible; but when they read it, they say it is so horribly dry. That young man over there says it is a ‘bore;’ that is the words he uses. He says, ‘My mother says to me, when you go up to town, read a chapter every day. Well, I thought I would please her, and I said I would. I am sure I wish I had not. I did not read a chapter yesterday, or the day before. We were so busy, I could not

help it.' You do not love the Bible, do you? 'No, there is nothing in it which is interesting.' Ah, I thought so. But a little while ago I could not see anything in it. Do you know why? Blind men cannot see, can they? But when the Spirit touches the scales of the eyes, they fall off; and when he puts eye salve on, the Bible becomes precious... If you have tried God's word and proved it- if it is precious to your soul, then you are Christians; but those persons who despise the Bible, have 'neither part nor lot in the matter.' If it is dry to you, you will be dry at last in hell. If you do not esteem it as better than your necessary food, there is no hope for you; for you lack the greatest evidence of your Christianity."

### **The Importance of Communing with the *Living Word* (Jesus) in the *Written Word***

John 5:39-40 – “**You search the Scriptures** because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, <sup>40</sup>**yet you refuse to come to me** that you may have life.”

John 17:1-3 – “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

John 8:31-32 – “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and **you will know the truth, and the truth** will set you free.”

John 14:6 - “I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

A.W. Tozer (*The Divine Conquest*) – “[We have] substituted theological ideas for an arresting encounter; we are full of religious notions but our great weakness is that for our hearts there is no one there... Knowledge by acquaintance is always better than mere knowledge by description.”

Study Bibles:

- ESV Study Bible
- The NIV Zondervan Study Bible
- Youth – The NLT Life Application Study Bible

Reading:

- Introduction to Gospel of Mark
- Mark chapters 1 & 2

J.C. Ryle (*How Readest Thou?*) – “Begin reading your Bible this very day. The way to do a thing is to do it, and the way to read the Bible is actually to read it. It is not meaning, or wishing, or resolving, or intending, or thinking about it; that will not advance you one step. You must positively read... If you cannot read yourself, you must persuade somebody else to read to you. But one way or another, through eyes or ears the words of Scripture must actually pass before your mind.”

Charles Spurgeon - "It is blessed to eat into the very soul of the Bible until, at last, you come to talk in scriptural language, and your spirit is flavored with the words of the Lord, so that your blood is 'bibline' and the very essence of the Bible flows from you."