

The Bible our most Prized Possession Pt 3

1 Corinthians 2:16

- In our first two lessons we established that the Bible is God's Word to us, and if we are to truly follow Him we must not only read it but we must understand it to apply it to our lives. For the Word of God is not just for certain parts of life but it is to guide and direct us in all areas of life. So this brings us to this morning's message, where we'll examine how the Word of God when properly understood and then applied begins to change our thinking, our purpose, and our actions, to that which not only benefits us, but also blesses everyone that's around us as well.
- **1Pet 1:22-23**- Peter tells us since we have been born again but not from something that originated from sin like a natural birth, its supernatural coming from God through His Word which has taken up residence inside of us and as Peter says will live in us forever. Notice this spiritual birth does something first for us as it purifies a once impure soul, and it allows you and I to love others not based upon their performance, which only produces a hypocritical, conditional kind of love and affection, now were able to give a sincere (genuine) love.
- One that comes from a pure heart and not a self serving heart, this allows us to produce a love that is "**fervent**" > doing or striving with all of one's energy, so you have to really work at it. This is the kind of love that God's Word helps to spill out into the lives of others all around us. **1Pet 2:1-3**- as if that's not enough Peter goes on to list 4 sins that has to do with us formerly hurting others but now because of God's Word are no longer a part of our character or our lifestyle.
- **1st Malice**- evil, motive of hurting and harming others, **2nd Hypocrisy**- saying one thing but doing another, intentionally misleading people, **3rd Envy**- jealousy, **4th Evil Speaking** – using devious words to tear people down instead of building them up. These **4** sins have to do with us either saying or doing things that ensure that we get what we want no matter what the cost to others.
- But because of the Word of God these things that once existed in our lives has been "**laid aside**" cast away, all because of us taking in the Word of God like newborn babies drink milk. This shows us that input produces output, for without the Word none of these things would be possible, also it highlights that the Word of God has life, gives life, and nourishes life, for as long as we have an appetite for the Word then we will continue to grow and be spiritually healthy.
- **1Cor 2:14-16**- Paul gives a contrast between a saved and unsaved person and their attitude and thinking, and as we'll see it has everything to do with their perspective of the Word of God. **V14** we read that not only is the Bible Divine in its Revelation, and in its Inspiration, but also it can only be received by the power of the Spirit of God, for unaided the natural man or unsaved person does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, in fact they are foolishness to them.

- So expecting your family member, co-worker, neighbor, government official, to act like a Christian should when they don't have God's Spirit living inside of them is actually unrealistic on our part. This is why before Christ leaning on our own wisdom was so frustrating and destructive to us because we thought we had a good plan for our lives only to be hurling ourselves in front of a speeding train wreck. **V15** the person who is illuminated by the Spirit of God can discern God's wonderful truths and make wise decisions about what is pleasing to God and what is not.
- This protects us from being judged by an unbeliever, since they don't really know what's right or wrong themselves > **Is 5:20**- Today we live in this time and as believers we need to rely on God's Word for our direction and not what's popular in society, because what their embracing and what God has said is in complete opposition, which is why they don't want it in the schools, in government, or the job, if they could they would remove it and all traces of it from our memory.
- **V16 "but we have the mind of Christ"** this doesn't mean we can tell the Lord what to do, or that we know everything and our infallible, but it tells us we should be looking at life from our Savior's point of view, and having His values and desires in mind when we speak and act. So that means I am expected to think like Jesus thinks and not like the world, that not an easy thing to do, I am so familiar with this world, and are constantly bombarded with its thinking from every angle, so I need a regular dosage of God's truth to battle against what I've taken in whether it was knowingly or unknowingly, I need God's Word to cut through the world's deception.
- **Eph 4:24-32**- lists a bunch of things we need to put off and virtues we need to put on, but before we can do any of these things **Eph 4:23**- says "**we must have our minds renewed**" that means the mind must be renovated, and most renovations start on the inside not the outside. Which is why **Philip 4:4-10**- says prayer, meditation, and God's Word, protects us from worry, unrest, and an unprotected heart and mind, as the person who does these things experience God's Peace, God's assurance that their prayers will be answered, and a Godly heart, mind and thought life.