

Holy Scriptures | Anchored

WEEK ONE | PASTOR BEN JOHNSTON

God's word is Life-Giving truth (James 1:18)

God's word is a good and perfect gift (James 1:17)

- ◇ God's Word is God-breathed.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, 3 Peter 1:20-21, Matthew 22:31)
- ◇ It is given to you for your benefit.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 15:4, Psalm 119)

God's word is unchanging

(James 1:17, Psalm 119:89, 96, 169)

- ◇ The scribes who copied the Old and New Testaments engaged in a meticulous process that typically took up to 15 months to complete.
- ◇ We have over 5,800 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, significantly more than any other ancient writings, and they are in 99% agreement with one another (the most reliable, well-attested documents in history).

God's word is Life-Giving truth

(James 1:18)

- ◇ Our physical life depends on God's Word (Psalm 33:6, Hebrews 1:3)
- ◇ Our spiritual life begins by the Word of God (1 Peter 2:23, John 8:32)
- ◇ Our spiritual life is sustained by the Word of God. (Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3)

Receive

(Gr., Dechomai), a hospitality term, to receive like a stranger.

Filth

(Gr., Rhyparia): literally means 'ear wax'.

Manuscripts

Copies of hand-written ancient texts, including those of the Bible.

Scribe

Someone who creates copies (manuscripts) of ancient documents, often as a career.

TERMS

QUOTES

“The Bible tells one story from beginning to end, the story of God's salvation through Jesus Christ.”

Small Group | Questions

The Bible guides us toward and reveals to us the person of Jesus (the Word who became flesh). As the body of Christ, we are responsible for stewarding the principles, obeying the commands, and proclaiming the truths of God's word to our world.

1. Make a list of all the things that hinder you from reading and **studying** the Bible?
Note: Pastor Ben mentioned our Culture, Changes in our lives, and Crisis
 - a. Together, identify practical ways to overcome these obstacles.
 - b. If the Bible seems intimidating to read, what are some practical ways to overcome this?
2. What does Hebrews 4:12 mean when it says "For the word of God is alive and active"?
 - a. How is the Bible different from every other book?
 - b. How can you trust the Bible? (see GKM's Toolbox online for more information)
 - c. Why should you trust the Bible?
According to Psalm 119, the word of God is:
 - The way of happiness (vv. 1-2)
 - The way to avoid shame (v. 6)
 - The way of purity (v. 9)
 - The way of good counsel (v. 24)
 The Word gives us:
 - Strength (v. 28)
 - Hope (v. 43).
 - Wisdom (vv. 98-100, 130)
 - Direction for the way we should go (v. 105)
3. How do you anchor your life in God's word?
 - a. James 1:21-25 teaches us to:
 - i. Humbly receive God's Word (v. 21)
 - ii. Listen to God's Word - "Hearer of the word" (v. 23)
 - iii. Study God's Word - "One who looks intently" (v. 25)
 - iv. Make it a Habit - "Perseveres in it" (v. 25)
 - v. Memorize & Meditate on it - "not a forgetful hearer" (v. 25)
 - vi. Do it - "a doer" (v. 22; 23; 25)

What is your plan to anchor your life in God's word?

- ◇ Carve out space and time in your week to study God's word (separate from your devotional time)
- ◇ Develop a reading plan (How many chapters or verses? What book will you start with? etc.)
- ◇ Prepare to study
 - ◇ Learn about the book you're about to read
 - ◇ What is the theme? Who wrote it? What is the genre? Who was the first intended audience? - these are some good questions to ask yourself.
- ◇ Dive-in
 - ◇ Make notes, meditate on it through the week, discuss it with others, teach it to your children, etc.

