

Colossians 3:15-17

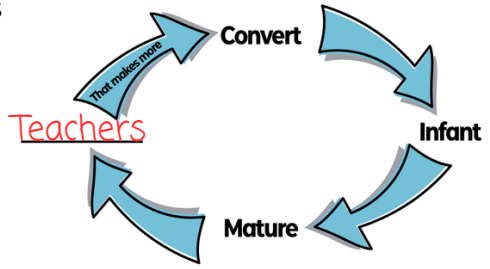
To know God's word, is to be Changed by it deeply

Growing has a goal for believers

- Equipped for Ministry

The Church facilitates Maturity

- Bible studies
- Kids min (worship, VBS)
- Sunday Morning Worship

**Internal Ministry**

- Your foremost priority is to minister to ourselves
 - The gospel works like a mirror, pointing to our own need for the gospel
- The word that we read/meditate/study must first create internal change within us, that reflection of God's word dwelling with us identifies our spiritual maturity
 - **2 Timothy 3:14-17**
- The practice of reading our bibles is devotional
 - knowledge does not equal maturity, living out the knowledge of scripture through its application demonstrates WISDOM

- **Proverbs 27:17**

External Ministry

- You are being equipped for ministry through the roles in the church - **Ephesians 4:11-14**
 - The people we bring to influence our spiritual walk are the people we want it imitate because they imitate Christ to us

- **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Knowing His word (Hebrews 4:11-13)

- Alters us Internally
- Reflects from us Externally
- Defense for us against falsehood

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- Convict of Sin
- Help us to understand the Truth
- Make us to be more like Christ

God's word reveals...

- The Character and Nature of God
 - Ever present in the OT - Love and Care for Israel
 - Incarnation in the NT - practical understanding of who God is
- How Believers can live like Christ
 - Shows who we were - Rebels and Sinners
 - Shows who we have become - Redeemed, Chosen, Ransomed, rescued, adopted, and co-heirs because of Grace and Mercy
- The Purpose of Believers
 - As the Body of Christ - We make and Multiply Disciples
 - Growing in our own Maturity - Teaching others about salvation

We read His word to...

- Know God (works and Will)
- Know Ourselves (Atoned for in Christ)
- Know Our Purpose (Commissioned for Good Works)