

Good morning Cornerstone! It is good to be with you this morning. We are continuing our sermon series Spiritual Habits. Where we are talking about the habits that we engage in in order to form a deeper connection with God

Today our scripture is going to be found in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. So, if you would like to follow along with us there. If you do not have a paper bible and would like one we have some available for you in the back. You can also follow along with us today on the app with the scripture and our sermon notes available to you there.

This passage we will mention later on in our teaching time. But I have us reading it this morning because it is the underlying theme to everything that we are talking about this morning. Even though we only mention this verse once. It is what this spiritual habit is formed out of.

But before we dive in the teaching today, lets read a part of our passage this morning together which comes from the book of 2 Timothy 3:16-17. So let us stand out of reverence for God's word as we boldly proclaim this truth as his body.

**[1] SCRIPTURE 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*"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."*

This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

**INTRO**

**[2]** This morning we are going to be talking about reading scripture. If anyone has ever spent any time in the Christian community knows that this is something is talked about often and most of the time expected. If you are a Christian you read you bible, its just what you do. For many of us we have talked with others that may be our spiritual mentors or people that we look up to in the faith. We hear about how they get up at the crack of dawn and read their bible for hours, then they go to work.

We see how different their life is and we often want that for ourselves. New years is often the perfect time to adapt this new habit into our everyday lives. We commit to something like reading through the bible in a year. We start off strong through Genesis but then somewhere we start to drift off. My guess is around Leviticus.

We get to places that are boring or don't make a lot of sense to us. Were so committed to our goal of reading through the bible completely that we don't stop and read somewhere else. This commitment to the plan often leads to us stopping all together because we find it difficult to be motivated.

So one of 2 things happen first we will feel guilty when we aren't reading it because well that's what Christians do. If I am not reading, then I must not be a good Christian. I struggle to wake up early to read before I go to work or school. Or if I wake up early then the kids are up early and I can't focus with all the chaos around. So it just doesn't happen and we beat ourselves up for it.

Or we will either force ourselves to read it out of obligation. As a Christian we read our bible because that is what they do. If I want to be a Christian or at least a good one, we have to force ourselves to sit down and read it. No matter how many questions I may have or whither I understand it or not or even if you think that it is boring, I can say that I read it.

The problem with this drive is we sell ourselves short of what the Bible is intended to do. It is not an obligation. Reading scripture is an “I get to” not a “I have to”. “I have to” is obligation. We really need to equip ourselves with the right motivation to spend time reading God’s word so that it does not become a source of guilt or obligation. With the right understanding of Why? How? And What for? The desire and motivation for reading God’s word will be because we want to and need to because we feel like we cannot go on through our day without it. It will be “I get to”, not “I have to”

**[3]** But we have to address a couple things first. What is scripture? The Bible is God’s authoritative Word, showing us clearly who God has been in the history of humanity and what he desires for us individually. It is the canon of Scripture that we find in our bibles in front of us. It does not include the apocrypha or the catechism. Those throughout history have not been held to the same standard as God word and often conflict or contradict the things that we know and affirm as scripture.

We know that the Bible was written by God through the hands of men over the course of 6,000 years in 66 books and from more than 40 writers. It is the inerrant word of God. Meaning it is without error and has been protected from contamination throughout history by God himself because it is His word.

**[4] Proverbs 30:5-6**

*“Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.  
6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.”*

There have been many councils that have been formed to create clear and understood theological, doctrinal and scriptural stances. They were comprised of men that loved God were well educated, knew scripture and truly sought after the truth of God in a way that honors him, his word, his church and brings him glory.

You have things like the council of Nicea, Constantinople, Ephesus and Chalcedon. That solidified claims on the doctrine of the trinity, the decision of the biblical canon church leadership in scripture. They all operated under the truth that is in 2 Peter.

**[5] 2 Peter 1:20-21**

*“Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

The greatest argument against scripture being the inerrant word of God was and still is that it has been change and corrupted by men over the course of hundreds of year to fit some political agenda. That is true of one translation but that another discussion. This argument completely removes God from the equation. Of course it usually comes from those that do not believe in God so its hard to believe in God’s sovereign oversight in the protection of his scripture.

**[6]** This argument was put to rest when archeologist discovered the dead sea scrolls in 1947. They were manuscripts that were found throughout a system of caves in the middle east<sup>1</sup>. What they found was the most complete set of manuscripts of the entire old testament with the only exception being the book of Esther.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.foi.org/2023/02/17/why-are-the-dead-sea-scrolls-so-important/>

The oldest manuscript that we had at the time before the Dead Sea scrolls was from around the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. These manuscripts that were found in the Dead Sea Scrolls were 1,000 years older than those. With the addition of the Dead Sea Scrolls there are 17,000 Old Testament Manuscripts, 5,800 Greek New Testament Manuscripts but there are also 10,000 Latin and 9,300 other manuscripts in other languages. Now if the idea of scripture being changed and corrupted were true they should find huge discrepancies in the text we have verses the text they found.

[7] In the New Testament is where they found the most variants. In the NT alone they found 400,000 variants between all of the manuscripts. More than 99 percent of them were not meaningful. It is deemed meaningful if the variant changes or alters the meaning of the text. Meaning they were variations in spelling, different word order or the use of a different article. Which means less than 1 percent are meaningful and only half of them are “viable”. The variants are deemed viable only if there is a good possibility that it was apart of the original wording.

The variants that were left with, are about 2,000 or so phrases and verses (1 John 5:7-8) and 2 passages Mark 16:9-20 and John 7:53-8:11 some manuscripts include them and others don't<sup>2</sup>. The majority of the variants are found when you compare the KJV with other English translations. The KJV would often include them when others do not because the KJV used more modern manuscripts and did not include earlier ones that were more closely written to the original.

All these variants are arguments over wording and the way things are phrased or the way that words in the original language

If we were to remove all of the variants nothing is challenged or changed by these variants of manuscripts over 6,000 years, 66 book, and 40 human writers. Again if we removed all of the variants, we do not lose the gospel or any of the core values in Christianity like the forgiveness of sins, salvation through Christ, salvation by faith or the church being the body of Christ. This remains unchallenged or unchanged because the author of the scripture is God himself.

[8] It has been the book preserved for so long and time and time again has proved its accuracy historically and archeologically over and over again. It has helped historians fight lost cultures like the Hittites. A people only ever mentioned in the bible thought to never exist because there was no historical evidence of them until 1812 when a Swedish explorer found the lost city of Petra that showed the culture of the Hittites exactly how the bible describes them<sup>3</sup>.

I could go on and on but that just proves that it is actually the word of God but this may not give you motivation to read it.

## **BODY**

There are 3 things that I think are accomplished personally in the life of the believer when they read the scripture. It helps us to understand sin and how to avoid it. Reading scripture helps us to develop righteousness through Christ. Finally reading the scriptures gives life to the believer reading it.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://biblethinker.org/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-400000-variants-in-the-bible-evidence-for-the-bible-pt15/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hopechannel.com/read/the-hittites-a-civilisation-lost-and-found>

**[9] Understand and Avoid Sin**

Sin is a popular topic especially to those opposed to Christianity. There are clear things that our outlined in scripture as what qualifies action, word, and deed as sin. Through the blood of Jesus we are forgiven and free from the ultimate consequences of sin. But we still have merit to know what sin is, especially for the purpose of our own development in our Christian walk.

Sin we understand as separation from God, just like light is something that can be measured and darkness cannot. Darkness is simply the absence of light and so sin is the absence of God. We live in a fallen world that has the imprint of God being that it is his creation but creation has since separated themselves from God and has fallen into sin. God is perfect, holy, and righteous. Anything that falls short of that perfection is sin.

This was the whole purpose of Christ's coming. The punishment for sin is death. This is not just the physical death that is a result of the fall with Adam and Eve. But Christ came to save us from the spiritual death that comes as a result of sin. He died to pay the price for us so that we can be forgiven. It is through the power of Christ that we can fight against sin in our lives.

So what is sin? In scripture God outlines what his perfect standard is for 2 reasons to outline how great God is but also to show us where we fall short of this perfect standard.

**[10] Romans 7:7**

*"What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."*

We are so corrupted by sin that we often forget that it is in our nature and our flesh desires it. God's word outlines clearly what is of the sin and flesh and what is of God. So that we can see them clearly separated, what is of God and what is not.

**[11] James 1:13-15**

*"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."*

So by understanding the perfect standard of God and an awareness of our flesh we not only will know what sin is. But through the expectation of what God desires from us we can avoid sin which leads to death.

**[12] 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."*

**[13] Psalm 119:9-16**

*"How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By guarding it according to your word.  
With my whole heart I seek you;  
let me not wander from your commandments!"*

*<sup>11</sup> I have stored up your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you.*

*<sup>12</sup> Blessed are you, O LORD;  
teach me your statutes!*

*<sup>13</sup> With my lips I declare  
all the rules<sup>[d]</sup> of your mouth.*

*<sup>14</sup> In the way of your testimonies I delight  
as much as in all riches.*

*<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways.*

*<sup>16</sup> I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word."*

But it is not enough to just know and avoid sin through the power of Christ. Being free from sin does not give us entrance into heaven there is a need for righteousness. Christ through his death and resurrection equipped us with his righteousness at the point of justification, because we do not have any of our own. The Holy Spirit came after Christ and enters into the life of the believer in order to create us to be more like Christ, through the process of sanctification.

#### **[14] Live a Righteously**

So it is through the Holy Spirit that we can live righteously following the example that was set by Christ. So through his word we can know and avoid sin which is the opposite of righteousness but through knowledge and understanding of his word we can live righteously through the work of the Holy Spirit.

#### **[15] John 17:16-19**

*"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them<sup>[b]</sup> in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself<sup>[c]</sup> that they also may be sanctified<sup>[d]</sup> in truth."*

#### **[16] 2 Timothy 3:15**

*"And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus"*

#### **[17] Romans 12:1-2**

*"I appeal to you therefore, brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world,<sup>[c]</sup> but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

So it is through knowledge of his word that we are able to build an understanding of the sin to avoid and actually live in accordance to God will and live righteously according to his standard of right and wrong all through the power of Christ.

By living righteously through this knowledge we can be living sacrifices that are deemed holy and the Lord will find pleasing to him. Living righteously through sacrifice and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit being shaped into the image of Christ is our spiritual form of worship.

These things speak to our deeds what we do. It is not by these deeds that we are saved but through Christ and through Christ alone. The deeds that we live out, however, are a result of the salvation that we have received in Christ. When we are transformed by the salvation in Christ our life will reflect that internal change.

### **[18] Gives life**

The scripture is not only designed to just make a live a moral life and change our conduct. We read the scripture because it is life giving. Jesus when he was being tempted by Satan before the start of his ministry, Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy his flesh and told him to use his power to turn stones into bread. Jesus responded.

### **[19] Matthew 4:4**

*“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

This was Jesus quoting from the book of Deuteronomy 8:3. Which Moses said to the people of Israel to remind them of when they were in the wilderness God fed them with mana when they were hungry. Moses was pointing out the God is the source of all life and that he is the God that provides when all are in need.

Both Jesus and Moses made the point that if God is the God that provides we should depend on him and his word because they are the things to live by since he is the God that feeds us when we are hungry, Clothes us when we are naked and gives us water when we are thirsty. His word and commands are life and we should live by them the way that we live by food and water.

### **[20] Psalm 109:105**

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

This was the author pointing out that God clearly leads those whom he loves with his word. It is the things that God uses to instruct us on where to go and which direction to take. In his word he provides us with clear direction in all wisdom.

His word gives life it gives direction but it also gives encouragement.

### **[21] Colossians 3:15-17**

*“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*

In our personal lives the word of God is so extraordinarily beneficial not just to bring an awareness of what to avoid and what God expects of us but also to be the way that God works in our lives. It has the ability and the power to be the life we cling to.

The word is from the God that provides and loves. It is the word that provides us with direction, as we attempt to navigate this life and seek to understand God. Also when we are struggling, it encourages us. Gods desire is for the word to dwell within us. That when we are with others that are studying his word, it can be used to encourage, equip and energize believers in the life that is honoring to him.

So you can see it is not about an “I have to read the bible” whose motivation is rooted in obligation. It transitions to “I get to read the bible” because it is out of a desire for the life God has for me.

**[22] That leads us though to our next question of “How?”**

There are some that will wake up every morning and will open their bible to random places in the bible and that works for them. Others need a clear plan that outlines which chapter in which book to read everyday and others just work through the bible cover to cover and read as much as they can, Sometimes it several chapters other times it is a couple verses.

No matter what we do in order to read scripture everyday it is important to understand how we are to know the word of God and how to understand the truth that is within it. Now I don't have a lot of time to go into great detail about all of this so if you have more questions about it, I would love to talk after or I will have some extra materials for those that are interested.

**[23]** The most important thing to start with is a good translation that you will actually read. There are 2 different kinds of translations in the English. In laymen's terms there is summaries and there are literal. Summary or summarical translations compile all of the manuscripts and will convey the meaning of the verses taking into account all of the manuscripts available to study on that particular verse. Examples of this would be like the NIV or the NLT.

Literal will take all of the manuscripts and they will translate directly into English from the manuscript that is the oldest, barring the most authority being closest to the original text. Examples of this type of translation are NASB and ESV, which we use here.

They both have their purposes. A literal translation is going to be important for study to know the word for word translation but I think the summarical translations are good for reading of the scripture.

The most important thing is that you have a translation that you are actually going to read. I think there are probably a few to avoid. But when it comes to translations have a bible that you are going to open and you are going to read from it and there is nothing that is going to hold you back other you're your own will and desire to do so.

So when you know the type of translation you have and the purposes of it we have to look at every scripture in context. The basic principle of context is the understanding that the bible was written for you, and not to you. Let me say that again the Bible was written for you, but it is not written to you.

What I mean by that is when we look at scripture in context every book and chapter in the bible was written to a specific audience and for a specific purpose. For us to understand the truth that the word of God contains it is imperative for us to know those 2 things.

Now this does not mean that God cannot speak to you through it. This does not mean that God is not working in your life in similar way that he did with the church in Ephesus or in the prophet Daniel. But when we read scripture in context understanding who it was written to and why then we can see the truth and apply that truth to our lives.

The truth that in in these pages is timeless. No matter what point in history we can take the truth found in God's word and it will still be true then, now and forever. What will change is the application of that truth. It applies differently based on circumstances, culture and maturity.

When we don't see these the word of God in context we as human beings tend to take things out of bounds and it no longer is the word of God but just our ideas about it.

**[24]** I heard a pastor talking about this, this week and he did some play on words that I thought was funny so I am stealing it. The term Exegesis is the term that talks about this method of studying the bible. Understanding it in context to find the true meaning of what was being said.

Eisegesis is the term when things are taken out of context and the story is applied to a different one. This is where I see a lot of postmodern Christian Instagram pastors doing. It is clever and it can make someone read a scripture and feel good about themselves but it has been so change that it is no longer the message that God is communicating nor is it the truth that is written in the bible.

**[25]** Eisegesis is when we replace characters in the bible and we insert ourselves into the story. The most common story that is the culprit for this form of reading is the story of David and Goliath. Often times we will insert ourselves into the story of David believing that we are David and the circumstances that we are facing in our world are our giants. Like our boss at work, our depression or anxiety. Matt Chandler is known for preaching on this passage and yelling, "you are not David".

Understanding that story in context we see that David is a representation of Christ who is to come. He came because we are facing an enemy that we cannot defeat which is our sin represented as goliath. Christ is going to come and face the enemy alone and defeat him and because of that victory we will all be rescued.

Now if we read that story out of context and insert ourselves how much it changes the story away from what God intended?

**[26]** So there is Exegesis, in context, Eisegesis, inserting "I" into the context, but the worst is Narcegesis. This is pure and utter selfishness. It is the disease the is plague the church and those that call themselves Christians. It is consumerism at its finest. Narcegesis is all about me. It approaching scripture with the attitude of "okay God, what do you have to say to me today." It the attitude of approaching scripture with conditions and checklist. "if the passage doesn't have anything to say about my anxiety, I want nothing to do with it."

**[27]** The bible is written for you and not to you. When we make everything about us we approach scripture selfishly and believe that it is written to you. When we can pause for a moment when we approach the word of God and understand what he was saying to the church in Corinth and what behaviors he was addressing and why the things he was addressing he say things that way. Or maybe why they were engaging in those behaviors in the first place.

When we can understand what God was trying to say to the original audience then we can find profound things that God is using to speak to us. To understand and avoid sin. To build in us a life of righteousness. To give us life, direction and encouragement. All of it is found within these pages we just have to know how to see it.

**APPLICATION**

**[28]** The purpose of Scripture though is not just in the personal life of the believer. This is our third question in reading scripture, **What for? Referring to the benefit of others.**

We touched on it a little bit, but it is also for the life of the community and the others that are around you. We study it for our own development, yes, but it is also for the good of the church. Not just to be encouraging but the word of God is a weapon. One that we can use in defense but also a weapon that can be used against us.

In a study done recently that said that only 8% of Christians will read their bible one time from Sunday to Sunday. Just one time. Setting the bar really low. But we will have people on the news that will say that the bible has no power or I see people from other religions that will know the bible better than most Christians. Its hard to believe that the word of God has power be upset when people say it doesn't and be dumbfounded with other know it better when 98% of Christians don't read their bible even once outside of a Sunday morning.

**[29] Ephesians 6:17**

*“and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”*

We have to know his word and read it because it is something we are to know. We know the truth because there is a world out there that is seeking to destroy you and they are even twisting scripture to do it. We have to know the truth to defend ourselves and prove the truth of the gospel to all that are willing to listen

**[30] 1 Peter 3:14-17**

*“But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.”*

This verse is the foundation of apologetics which is the study and defense of the word of God. We are to not only defend why it is true but we have to always be prepared to defend why we believe it and it should be better than just “well I just have faith”. Scripture is so rich with truth that is proven throughout all of human history. We have so much more than just a blind leap into nothing. We have a response to evidence that supports and affirms our position.

**[31] Romans 15:4-6**

*“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

When we know the truth as a body of Christ we are able to be unified in one voice glorify God. The beacon of hope that the church is designed to be that stands as a beacon in support of truth in a world that believes truth is relative.

**[32] 2 Timothy 2:14-15**

*“Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”*

**[33] 2 Timothy 3:14-17**

*“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom<sup>[a]</sup> you learned it<sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.<sup>16</sup> 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<sup>[b]</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

When we know the truth and are able to wield the authority of the scripture as a defense. Knowing that we are to continually remind ourselves of that truth and build the reason why we believed it in the first place but why we continue to believe it now we can see that the scripture and the truth within it is also used as a weapon to fight against the lies and false teaching that can corrupt our understanding of God’s truth and pull us into deception.

This defense is not just for our own personal lives but this is a defense of our children, of our spouses and our church. Jesus warned about false teachers coming as wolves in sheep’s clothing. We have to know the truth so well that we can see them for what they are and protect the ones that we love and care about from their influence. This is what the early church did.

**[34] Acts 17:2-3 & 11**

*“And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,<sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ”...[in Berea] ... “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”*

They understood and loved the things that Paul was teaching to them but they did not accept them until they were confirmed with the scripture. How many of us listen to a pastor on social media, hear what he’s talking about of maybe read their words like them and rather than going back and confirming what was said and taught we share it because he mentioned God and it sounded good. We could be leading others astray if we are not rightly handing the word of God.

**[35] Hebrews 4:11-13**

*“Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.<sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

We need to know it, defend it and fight against falsehood with it, but in order to do that we have to read it. We can depend on social media and coming on a Sunday morning and listening to some guy preach for 45 min. We have to be in the word for ourselves. It has to be the thing that is more valuable than food and water. Man cannot live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

It is the source of life. It is the word of God that loves you provides for you, leads you guides you, strengthens you and encourages you. The God that equips you and calls you. He wrote these word for you we should be picking it up more that once a week. This book is our source of life. It is the inerrant word of God and the way that he speaks to the believe through what he has done and what he is going to do in the future. Do you know it.

**[36]** We cannot default to our history. Well I have grown up in church my whole life I know all the stories.

I'll wrap up with this illustration. Many of you know that I am a big fan of gadgets. I have a pocket full of them. I like to think that I have all of these thing on me everyday for that one day that I am pick up by a helicopter dropped in the middle of no where and I have to survive for an unknown amount of time. You never know it could happen, and when it does I am prepared.

One of the gadgets that I carry around is this pen. It have a knife, a bottle opener, a fire starter but it also has a compass. Now without anyone looking at their gadgets I want everyone to point to which direction north is.

Most of you know where you are sitting at in relative to 104 and know that 104 runs pretty true to east and west so most of you can do that from memory. But as you start getting into territory that you have never been to before and you have no frame of reference like 104 it going to be hard to know the way.

A ship can start out in the right direction but inevitably gets tossed by the waves and wind, requiring regular checks with the compass in order to get to the final destination. Even with good intentions, we can lose our bearings and need to continually and regularly be reminded of what God's Word says about him and about us in order to live the life God desires for us.

We are all entering into seasons of life that we have never been to before. They might be similar to others experience but they are always uncharted territory for us. Because you are not the same person you were yesterday and you will not be the same person that you are today, tomorrow.

If we are going to be looking constantly to know who God is, understand our sin, look to live righteously, defend our selves in truth and also fight against falsehood. In every turn and twist that life has to throw at us we have to constantly be checking our compass. We have to continually be getting our bearing on who God is and what he wants for us. We do that by continually reading his word.

**[37] Matthew 24:35**

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."*

God word and his truth are timeless and eternal. What an amazing things that this book was written for you and you get to read it every minute of every day, What a blessing?! You get to read the truth from God that was written for you! Pick it up and read it.

**PRAYER AND REFLECTION**

**COMMUNION**