

Sermon Text Discussion 12/31/2017

Psalms 119:17-24 "Reading God's Word with Dependence and Devotion" by Drew Hunter

Overview

The Bible is the story of God's plan to renew all things through Jesus Christ. This world was made to be in a steady state of shalom; that is, physical, spiritual, and communal flourishing. But our sin has fractured everything and now we need renewal. This morning our focus is on the renewing power of God's word. This section of Psalm 119 first shows that we must depend on God to help us understand his word. The second half shows us how to be devoted to God's word even in the hardest of circumstances.

Quotations

"I began to read the Holy Scriptures upon my knees, laying aside all other books and praying over, if possible, every line and word. This proved meat... and drink... to my soul. I daily received fresh life, light and power from above. I got truer knowledge from reading the Book of God in one month than I could ever have acquired from all the writings of men." – George Whitefield

Understanding & Application

- 1) God has given us the gift of life. All gifts have a purpose. According to verse 17, what is one purpose of God gifting us with another year of life? On a practical level, what does this mean to you?

- 2) Read II Timothy 2:7. Explain how Paul is telling Timothy he must be both diligent and dependent as he reads God's word. Dependent on what? For what?

- 3) Drew gave a personal example of him having an increased desire to read his Bible and coming to a deeper understanding of it after he became a Christian. Share your own examples of God allowing you to see new truths from His word.

- 4) Explain the connection and need for balance between studying God's word and praying. Are you more of a 'word person' or a 'prayer person'? Why should we strive for a good balance between the two?

- 5) What is your plan for receiving the renewing power of God's word in 2018? Drew described a four step process:
 - a. Embrace reading the Bible as a priority.
 - b. Commit to a plan.
 - c. Read with dependence (on God to reveal truth) and prayer.
 - d. Discuss God's word in community.

Discuss these four steps as a small group. How can you help each other in 2018?