

Thoughts from Richard May 2015

This week's thoughts reflect on the importance of reading the revelation that God has provided for us about who he is and his plan for the world - the Bible.

The Bible is far more than just a book.

In Genesis 2/7 we read:

Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

In the same way, 2 Tim 3/16 tell us that the scripture is "*God breathed*", and therefore living. God breath (Spirit) brings life, and the words of the bible are Gods very breath- it is alive!

Heb 4/12 says:

For the word of God is living and active. The word 'living' is the same word used to translate "Living God" - fully alive in ways we can't comprehend. The word translated 'active' is a word that means 'energetic and effectively working'.

Both these verses tell us the implications of these truths.

2 Tim 3/16

'All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.'

I wonder if you ever feel incomplete? unwise? unrighteous? ill-equipped? Read and obey the word!

Heb 4/12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

I wonder if we are willing to expose ourselves to this type of scrutiny? The true believer does. Let us read the word of God and allow him to do his work in us!

Evangelist Ravi Zacarias said, "*our personal devotional time with the Lord is the most important thing in life - if we fail here we fail everywhere!*"

Let's resolve, in his strength and enabling, to be men and women of his word.

God beseeches Israel to obey his word in Psalm 81 (ESV)

Oh, That My People Would Listen to Me
To the choirmaster: according to ^(A)The Gittith.^(B) Of ^(B)Asaph.

- ^(C)81 Sing aloud to God our strength;
^(D)shout for joy to the God of Jacob!
- ² Raise a song; sound ^(E)the tambourine,
^(F)the sweet lyre with ^(G)the harp.
- ³ Blow the trumpet at ^(H)the new moon,
at the full moon, on our feast day.
- ⁴ For it is a statute for Israel,
a rule^(I) of the God of Jacob.
- ⁵ He made it ^(J)a decree in ^(K)Joseph
when he ^(L)went out over^(M) the land of Egypt.
^(N)I hear a language ^(O)I had not known:
- ⁶ “I ^(P)relieved your^(Q) shoulder of ^(R)the burden;
your hands were freed from the basket.
- ⁷ In distress you ^(S)called, and I delivered you;
I ^(T)answered you in the secret place of thunder;
I ^(U)tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah
- ⁸ ^(V)Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
- ⁹ There shall be no ^(W)strange god among you;
you shall not bow down to a ^(X)foreign god.
- ¹⁰ ^(Y)I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
^(Z)Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- ¹¹ “But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel ^(AA)would not submit to me.
- ¹² So I ^(AB)gave them over to their ^(AC)stubborn hearts,
to follow their own ^(AD)counsels.
- ¹³ ^(AE)Oh, that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would ^(AF)walk in my ways!
- ¹⁴ I would soon subdue their enemies
and ^(AG)turn my hand against their foes.
- ¹⁵ Those who hate the LORD would ^(AH)cringe toward him,
and their fate would last forever.
- ¹⁶ But he would feed you^(AI) with ^(AJ)the finest of the wheat,
and with ^(AK)honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

Let's listen to his word!

Your servant in Him
Richard