

The Word that Proceeds

Review

Thank P Tony- great words- listen to them.

Introduction (ideas from sermon by Kris Vallotton)

Interesting time in history- must not be fearful

2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

As we look at what is happening- trust in- Lord. ...

We can be fear driven or faith driven.

i.e. recliner- rest/safety- rest in the Lord

We do live in a culture that has given up on ...

-God

-supernatural

-absolute truth as a fixed moral reference point outside of ourselves.

It is no wonder we end up absurdities ...

-we have said there is no relevant difference

between a baby five minutes after/before birth.

>instead of condemning abortion as murder we are embracing infanticide- 2yrs.

>if- heart starts beating on day 21 and it is a baby, what is it- day 20? day 10? day 1?

>has- tissue become anything but- baby?

-it has been legitimate to discriminate on the basis of sex by having separate bathrooms.

>now- not legitimate to discriminate on the basis of sex when- comes to marriage

Turning from God/absolutes- leads to absurdities.

Christians- believe in- Creator, our thinking and actions- bound by realities beyond ourselves.

In a culture that believes in evolution by chance- there is no moral reference- nothing is absurd.

What we feel is taking precedence over reality.
Trying to figure out who we are by how we feel ...

Sending someone- hike in- wilderness with a compass that always points at themselves. A compass works because it gives you a fixed reference point so you can locate yourself. John Stonestreet

Often approach- life/Bible through our feelings.
We are in danger- allowing feelings to trump truth.

Feelings are a very legitimate part of being human, but either your feelings will reshape truth or you will allow truth to reshape your feelings. John Stonestreet

We need an absolute reference point for life and that reference point is God/His Word.

It is only by knowing the Word of God/hearing the voice of God that we can navigate this life.

The Word that Proceeds

Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’ ”

Proceeds-

-verb- describes an action,

-present- action in process- w/o- end point

It is important that we know not only the written Word of God, but that we also know the Living God of the Word.

The God of the Word still speaks to us today and His HS guides/provides direction for our lives.

Every word that proceeds from God- present tense, ongoing, w/o end, is important.

Not talking about- adding to the Word of God.

Bible- inerrant- foundation of our faith/belief.
However, we serve a Living God who has
deposited His Living HS inside of us.

The written Word helps us to ...

- understand who God is,
- what His values are,
- what is important to Him,
- guidelines for life,
- owners manual- keep us running properly

We need the current, ongoing, what is God
saying to us today word as well/written word
It is the current, ongoing, what is God saying to
us today Word- shows how to apply truth.

**i.e. Bible does not tell me who I should
marry, but it does tell me the type of
person I should marry. It is the- what is
God saying to me today Word- that
witnesses about who I should marry.**

The Sword

Mk 6- sent 12 out- take nothing w/you- no bread,
bag, money, one change of clothes

Lk 22- take money w/you, take a bag, do not
have a sword- sell coat- buy a sword.

Mat 26- Peter takes out a sword to defend Jesus-
cuts off a mans ear- Jesus stopped him-
those who take up sword, perish by- sword.

Was it wrong to have a sword- no, Jesus told him
to buy a sword- but ...

we need the what is God saying to us today
word to know when to use the sword.

**This requires both knowledge of the
written Word of God and an ongoing,
listening, relationship with God.**

Manna from Heaven

Ex 16- God feeds the Jews in the wilderness for 40 years by providing them daily w/manna.

Had to collect manna everyday- if collected more than one days worth, it would rot the next day.

Jn 6- Jesus speaking about the manna ...

Jn 6:48-50

48“I am the bread of life.

49“Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

50“This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

Jesus is the bread in the wilderness- He is the bread of God, food from heaven.

We cannot live on yesterday's word, we must hear what God is saying today.

As the manna that was kept overnight rotted, we need a daily, ongoing relationship with God in which we can hear what He is speaking to us today for our current life situations.

Sacrifice of Isaac

God promised Abraham he would be the father of a multitude of nations- blessing to the nations.

That multitude would come through Isaac.

Gen 22- Abraham gets a word from God- take your son Isaac to- top of a mountain and sacrifice him- 2-3 day journey- gets to the top of the mountain- God says do not kill Isaac I will provide a sacrifice- just testing your faithfulness.

If Abraham had not remained current with what God was saying, Isaac would have been dead.

Our confidence must be in the God of the Word, not merely in the word itself- we need both.

Elijah, the Brook, Ravens, and the Widow

1 Ki 17- Elijah prophesies a drought to King Ahab- wicked king. God tells him to hide himself in the wilderness near a brook for water, and God will have Ravens bring him food.

Eventually the brook dries up (drought)- very brook God told him would provide for him. At that point Elijah had to seek God to find out what to do next.

God sends Elijah to a widows house and she will provide for his needs. The widow has one meal left for her/son. Elijah prophesies that her flour and oil will not run out for as long as the drought goes on.

He was able to prophecy- food would not run out because God said she would take care of him. Elijah realized the provision was not in the brook or ravens, but in- word- proceeded from God. Elijah realized the provision was not in the widow, but in the word God had spoken to him. We need to be daily reading the written word but also listening for- voice of God for today.

If Elijah had not continued to listen to God he would still be sitting beside the dried up brook. We find ourselves sitting beside dried up brooks.

Conclusion- Living and Active

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the

division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Living- something alive, breathing, filled with life for today, not just yesterday's word.

Active- energetic, powerful, effectual, faith filled, able to bring about results ...

-the word love is not just something we do, we are filled w/the love of God in Christ.

-the word holy is not just something we do, we are becoming holy because of the HS, the Living Word alive in us.

-the word mercy is not just a requirement to be merciful, I am becoming mercy.

Jesus was the word incarnate- word in the flesh- spiritually I am the Word alive in a human body

The Word of God is Living and Active- it acts inside of me to change me from the inside out.

God's word is not just a demand to do something, it is an invitation to be something.

If you destroyed every written Bible/electronic Bible- the Word of God would still exist.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jesus Christ is the embodiment of the Word of God- the Living, Active, Word of God.

Challenge

Prayerfully read one chapter a day for the next three weeks and listen for God to speak (habit)

Mat 17:5- "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"