

GOD WROTE A BOOK

One month ago... the last time we met right here on the lawn.... topic was Connecting with His Word

Researching the reliability of God's Word and showing how there is no doubt the book we hold in our hand is absolutely His book....that God watches over the accuracy of His Book throughout all time.

A lot has transpired in that time frame.... The word of God is still here

- Fire... covid... elections... social unrest... anarchy... **Heaven and earth will pass away but your word will remain (Matt. 24:35)**

Today I want to personalize this message concerning God's Word:

God's word is reliable and true... but it must be personally integrated into our lives

- **WE** must pick up the book
 - We must taste and see that the Lord is good
 - We are truly intended to be as the Bible declares **an open book read by all men (2 Cor. 3:2)**

Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (NIV)

Assimilate

This verse says... **Let the word dwell in you**

- This indicates a real choice
 - It is voluntary, something within our control.

John 8:32 – You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. (NKJV)

It is only the known truth that will set us free

- The unapplied truth is only empty wishes
- Good citizenship is not good citizenship until we practice it
 - Talks a good game
 - All words and no substance

TCC-... the known truth is what truly sets us free... as much as we allow it to work in our lives

Ezekiel 3:1-3... And he said to me, “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel.” ² So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. ³ Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. (NIV)

John had the same encounter

Revelation 10:10- I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.

- Bitter and sweet
- Must assimilate it for it to be of use

Point: God is not only informational but also experiential

- The responsibility is ours... to develop an awareness of His Word... to assimilate and then to integrate. Read it, chew it, live it!
 - Let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly

TCC- we must choose to investigate Gods word and know it... to allow the awareness of His word to become our sounding board... that completely transforms our life

Philippians 3:12-13...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (NIV)

TCC – God’s Word is available to all... but only **lives within** those who will allow it to

We must assimilate His word

Integrate

Let the word of Christ **dwell** in you...

- This is talking about lifestyle... adhere to His teachings

TCC – Interpretation without application is useless

“Let”... The **Words of Jesus dwell**.... **Move in**

We allow the word to move in...

- We are to on purpose take time to bring the words of Christ close... To invade our space
 - Transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2)

This means we allow the Word to take up residence...

- His name on your mailbox
 - Integrate His word so richly into our lives that it becomes our subconscious reaction to life
 - Impulse reactions

Ephesians 4:24 –renewed in the spirit of our minds... (ESV)

- this means the integrated Word of God directs my actions... has altered my perspective to a place of **not my will but His will** (Lk. 22:42)
- Transformed my thinking to the place **it is not I who live but Christ who lives in me** (Gal. 2:20)
- **Your word I have hidden in my Heart that I might not sin against God.** (Ps. 119:11)

To dwell – means to decorate the house with His ideals like furniture, in His taste, His way becomes ours.

His Couch in the living room might be... **I'm a new creation in Christ old things are passed away all things are become new** (2 Cor. 5:17)... **By His grace I am who I am** (1 Cor. 15:10)

Living space- where we live- the things I say and do ... **I will set not evil before my eyes** (Ps. 101:3)
... **Let no corrupt communication** (Eph. 4:29)

Relationships - **endeavor to keep peace with all men** (Eph. 4:3)

Our Marriage - **Husband love your wives... wives give honor to your husband...** (Eph 5:25-26)
...**live as co-heirs of His grace...**(1 Pet 3:7)

His Bed in the bedroom.... **Marriage bed is holy** (Heb 13:4) ...- **sex life needs to be centered on fulfilling my spouse**(1 cor 7:3)

TCC – Let the word move in... not just window dressing...

- let it furnish every room... every accent... every style we subscribe to look like Him

It's authentic Christianity. The real deal, in action!

Activate

Let the word of Christ dwell in **you richly** ... means the word lives through us

Describes how the word is to be activated... over the top... in abundance

Ezekiel 3:3 ... Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." (NIV)

- No nibbling... no keto... do not count calories...
- Dive in... fill your life with the Words or message of Jesus

When Jesus Came... **the word Became flesh and lived among us...(John 1:14)**

- everyone saw the difference in how He carried Himself... how He treated others
- We have never seen a man like this before.. never heard someone like this before...
- In the very same way he wants His word to become flesh in us

When the word dwells in us richly... it overflows

John 7:37 – Out of your innermost being will flow rivers of living water

- Pressed down shaken together and running over (Lk. 6:38)

In this way we truly become the Word made flesh...that **open book read by all men**... we become His book... we become the Message of Christ...

Recall ... all the Helping Hands over the last 2 weeks concerning the fire

- All the sweat, time and resource... motivated by... the word dwelling in us richly
- Activate- means living it out in the course of life... last week ... it came out... people helping people

Not speaking about behavior modification alone.... Sit up, clean up, straighten up, shut up... True life transformation that leads to action

... Inside out living ... Eph 4... righteousness and true holiness

Richly let it flow out of our lives.... Until it overtakes others... who can't help but taste and see

Colossians 3:16....as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (NIV)

When the word dwells in us richly... it comes out in our expression, our actions, our compassion,... and overflows to those around us

So yes there is a swirl of Chaos... yes the world seems nuts... what's our response... **Let the words of Christ dwell in us richly**

- Be the book
- Be the difference
- Be the solution
- Be the overflow... the world needs us now more than ever!!