



Pastor's Pen

*How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through
your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate
every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

Psalm 119:103-105

Dear Bethel Church family and friends,

May the grace and peace of our glorious Triune God fill your heart and mind this beautiful spring morning. I pray this finds you and your loved ones well and that you are rejoicing in what God has done for you in Christ.

If you are a regular reader of my monthly articles, you will remember that I've been focusing on God's great and precious promises recently. This month begins a two-part series on the Lord's promises to us about the sacred Scriptures. For saints, the importance of God's Word for our daily lives can't be overstated. Remember, even our Lord Jesus used the Scriptures he'd memorized from Deuteronomy to battle the Devil's temptations during their conversation in the desert at the beginning of Christ's ministry.

As you know, we take the Scriptures very seriously here at Bethel. And we have for a very long time. Why? Because we are absolutely convinced the Bible is **"breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work"** (2 Timothy 3:16-17). In fact, in the book of Isaiah, God reminds us that His Word **"shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it"** (Isaiah 55:11).

Yes, beloved, God's Word is profitable for our in-depth study and growth as Christians. We know this because the Holy One of Israel assured us as His people that it's true. Additionally, grasping that

when the Lord speaks, His words never return to Him invalid is a powerful guarantee that we can trust what He's said. Indeed, in these assurances, we can find real security. But we have to ask ourselves what this means in our daily lives? I believe it teaches us several important things. First, it means that the Bible has authority. Here at Bethel, we confess that the written Scriptures are our final authority for life and works of ministry. What does this look like in practice? It might help to remember that if you have some problem or nagging issue going on that is troubling you, you can be sure that the Scriptures have something to teach you on the matter.

But isn't the Bible difficult to understand? In Peter's second epistle, he touches on this issue when he writes the following about Paul's letters, **"there are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures"** (2 Pe. 3:16). The term theologians use when talking about this aspect of Scripture is clarity. Contextually, clarity doesn't mean that all words, verses, or passages are equally clear or obvious to all people. Rather, it teaches that the Bible is written so that all we need to know for our salvation and Christian walk is very clearly set forth. As an example, do we all understand and are we able to explain the depths of the glorious Trinity? No, we can't. But as Christians, we can point to the fact that there is only one living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a completely pure spirit, without body, parts, or emotions. Not only that, but in the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three are of one substance, power, and eternity. So yes, we worship one God in three persons, and we rejoice that He calls us His own people.

That's both authority and clarity, saints. Next time, we'll study the important topic of the sufficiency of Scripture.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Chris

this week

Sunday's sermon:

A Risky Request

Nehemiah 2:1-8

events

VBS Meeting
4/26 at 4:00 pm

Youth
4/26 at 5:00 pm

Senior Citizen's Lunch
4/29 at 12:00 pm

Mentors & Moms
4/30 at 9:30 am

volunteer schedule

Infant Nursery
Jackie & Albert Krashner
and Debra Kozak

Toddler Nursery
Sheridan & Carter Miller
and Jane McCall

Worship Training
Ilse Wallace and
Kristine DeRousse