

Revelation 10

Good Morning Church.

Let us pray...

The Apostle Paul in the very last letter he penned, to a young pastor named Timothy spoke these words.

2 Tim 4:1-5

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Understand this time that Paul warned about is upon us.

Today, many people do not want to endure sound doctrine or Bible teaching.

Instead, they desire uplifting and positive messages.

And many popcorn preachers today cater to the 'good vibes' people desire and demand.

I say popcorn preachers, because they pop through the scriptures, picking delightful treats, and tantalizing morsels throughout the Word.

Today preachers actually will not talk about hell and the consequences of sin.

The reality of all of that really is to depressing.

Today entertainment and good energy have taken a prominent place in ministries.

Fables and wonderful stories have captivated many Christian Churches.

Biblical prophecy is not even touched by the Lukewarm church at large today.

“We don't want to hear about Doom and Gloom every week.”

One woman wrote me this week, and she said this regarding our study of Revelation...

“The Church is largely asleep on prophecy and end times. My closest friends in the Lord, don’t even know or understand. They don’t touch it, and their teachers don’t touch it.”

She says, “I can’t speak about things freely without sounding like a zealot... when really I’m just speaking of things plainly in the scriptures.”

And this is a similar problem perhaps many of you are facing.

Today the liberal Lukewarm church has put social justice and programs above the distribution of truth, and mainly because the church leaders are fearful of dropping in attendance.

Now, preaching and teaching the Bible Verse-by-verse really takes a step of faith in our culture.

People do not want to hear all of the truth, and especially prophecy.

You know the Bible is approximately 27% prophecy.

To do away with prophecy, we would have to remove over a quarter of the Bible's content.

Now, although prophecy is very difficult at times, it is such an important part of our faith.

Later on in our study of Revelation we will see

Rev 19:10 For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

To do away with prophecy we hinder the full revelation and knowledge of who our Savior is.

Now I believe my calling as a pastor is to "Preach the Word" in the Greek it is *logos*.

The Apostle John explains Jesus is this *Logos*...

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

In order for me to teach you all of the Word, the full revelation of who our God is truly and completely, we need to understand prophecy as well.

Fortunately, for you all, I fear offending God, and misrepresenting Him, more than I fear the ears of those who will hear the Word.

We teach for Jesus, to reveal Him, the Word.

Now we don't just want to know 75% of who Jesus is.

We want to be able to say as Paul did **Acts 20:27**

For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Now, the reality of that kind of calling is wonderful, and you can kind of even find a sweetness to it.

“I will teach the whole council of God.”

It has a wonderful ring to it.

But I will tell you this, the sweetness of the Word of God, comes with a bitter reality often.

The reality of setting out as a minister today, and answering the call to teach the whole counsel of God is bittersweet to say the least.

Because the Bible has some really difficult and tremendously hard truths and realities in it.

And sometimes, I will come across a passage, and I will say “God you want me to say that?”

“Lord, Your Word is speaking Words that are contrary to what this culture says is right.”

“Lord this might offend someone.”

“Oh God this is depressing, can we just catch this part the next time around.”

But, you see to truthfully understand all the sweetness of God’s Word, and the promises of His Word, we have to get through the hard to stomach parts as well.

To fully grasp who our God is, we need to understand the whole of scripture.

And well, that is our calling here, we will not popcorn or dance around scripture for the delight of the listener as much as we love you all, we love the Lord all the more.

Now, this morning’s text really was a comfort and a confirmation for me, as to what we are accomplishing here.

In fact, as we continue in our study of Revelation this morning John will experience the bittersweet effects of the Word of God.

We will be in chapter 10 this morning of John's writing in Revelation.

Now before we get into it, let us remember what has happened up to this point...

We have witnessed a scroll with seven seals upon it, taken by the only One who was worthy to take it and Jesus open the seals.

Each seal was broken, revealing judgments brought to this earth through God's righteous wrath.

The seventh seal revealed seven trumpets of judgment, last time we were together; we looked at the fifth and sixth trumpet judgments.

And I will tell you last week was intense...

We saw great demonic hordes released upon the earth; the intensity of each judgement has just reached an incredible height, as another third of humanity was killed by these horrible creatures from hell.

And today we will see a pattern, remember after the 6th seal was opened, we had a parenthesis in John's vision.

Kind of like a break in the climactic energy that was building, a kind of reprieve for the reader.

Well, this morning, here in chapter 10 the pattern repeats, and after all the incredible events of last week, we will get a parenthesis again before the seventh and final trumpet blows.

And we get a little window now into some more detail to what is happening at this point.

And this parenthesis will carry over into chapter 11 for next week.

And then in the midst of chapter 11 the seventh and final trumpet will blow, and you might expect that to be the end, but not so, the seventh trumpet reveals many things including another series of sevens, in the bowls of God's wrath.

So let us look into this window, here with John as we get a little reprieve this week from the destruction of a wicked world being judged.

A commercial break so to speak, but things will pick up again in the weeks to come.

John explains...

The Mighty Angel with the Little Book

10:1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by

Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Now what is happening here? Let us go back through and find out.

John says...

10:1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

Now, there is a great divide in the scholars over this passage and who the identity of this angel is.

And I have to admit, there is no way to be sure.

Now, many brilliant men, including Chuck Smith, Harry Ironside, Donald Barnhouse and many others believe this is none other than Jesus Christ.

The description here is so detailed, and every one of the characteristics here are associated with the Son of God.

Jesus Himself explained that when He appears **Mark 13:26...they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.**

And this rainbow last time it was mentioned was when John saw of vision of the throne in heaven...

Rev 4:2-3 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

And the description here of his face shining like the sun takes us back to John's vision of Jesus in Revelation Chapter 1 where he explains **Rev 1:16 His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.**

And His feet ablaze reminds us also of John's vision of **Rev 1:15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace,**

In addition, the descriptions in the verses to come, talk about a book being in His hand, having the voice of a lion.

And remember in the last parenthesis, right before the seventh seal was to be broken, that an angel before the altar was mediating and offering prayers in Revelation 8:3-4?

And those who claim this to be Jesus, explain that picture the same way for this picture here, that this is the same Angel, and because God is dealing with Israel, Jesus is seen here how He was known in the Old Testament as the Mighty Angel of the Lord.

Now, I will think no less of you, or even debate it with you, if that is where you see yourself believing this passage.

Warren Wiersbe rather plays the middle ground on this; I would actually refer you to his material to start an unbiased study of this section.

Now, I rarely leave the camp that Chuck Smith is in, but here I have to go with Dr. John Walvoord, and J.

Vernon McGee, and consider this 'being' here in Revelation 10 as a mighty angel, or kingly angel, an angel with high ranking, or a created being with a high calling.

Some suggest Michael, who we will see in a great battle in Revelation 12.

His name means, "Who is like God?"

And it is not difficult to see him in this role.

There are many reasons for seeing this as an angel here.

You see John explains here, this is not just an angel or messenger, but another angel, this is another like the others we have seen; a different angel like the others.

And the term 'mighty' is the same description as we get for the angel in Revelation 5:2 who presented the scroll that Jesus, the Lamb of God took.

In that chapter, there was no confusion if John was seeing an angel or not.

So this is another like that one.

Now this mighty angel comes down from the presence of Christ the One who is in the midst of the throne.

McGee

We see this angel coming with a cloud, which many associate with the cloud of Glory that Jesus will come on.

And they connect the image to the cloud that went before Israel in the Old Testament.

Now this cloud is not coupled with great glory, and in order for us to see this as Jesus, this means Jesus would be coming at the midpoint of the tribulation.

There is no evidence in scripture that declares Jesus will come to this earth midway through the seven-year tribulation.

In fact, we will see here later in Revelation very clearly, that at the end of the tribulation we will see Jesus come to this earth with Great Glory.

So we see here possibly a created angel that has been entrusted with great authority coming from heaven, as

a special ambassador, bearing the symbols of the One whom sent him.

We see him with a rainbow, bearing the peace treaty God has with earth, a reminder God will never flood the earth dwellers again.

Although there have been terrible judgments and horrible scenes, God has been true to this covenant with mankind.

This strong angel's face shown like the sun, but remember he has left the presence of God.

Remember what happened to Moses when he was in the presence of the Lord.

Ex 34:30 So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

This privileged mighty angel shines from the Glory of the God who sent him, who he was in the presence of.

And as part of his heavenly vestments his feet are seen as pillars of fire.

He comes bearing the news of a coming judgment, and his appearance speaks to the authenticity of the Kingdom that sent him.

Notice next...

2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

Now the last time we saw a book, was the last time we saw a mighty angel in Chapter 5.

That time he beheld a scroll, which no one could open, then Jesus, the Lamb of God, came forth and grabbed ahold of it, this was the title deed to the earth.

Now if you see Jesus here as the mighty angel, there is a nice flow here, we see Jesus still has the book, and He will ultimately hand it off to John to eat.

But, there again is a problem.

This word here for book is bibliaridion. NT:974

bib-lee-ar-id'-ee-on (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.

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Little book or booklet, that is a different word then we saw in chapter 5.

NT:975 biblion (bib-lee'-on) (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

This is another angel with a booklet this time.

There is no clear indication that they are the same book.

So the simplest way to see this, is a new littler book is presented in this mighty angels hand.

We never see the contents of the book, but it seems to represent God's Word and the authority given to this angel to fulfill what takes place here.

John explains here that this angel puts his feet on the sea and the earth claiming authority over both for the One who sent him.

This is a massive 'being' who is claiming the whole earth here for the Kingdom of God.

Much like the explorers who came to the western hemisphere when Columbus and other explorers, were pulled by their curiosity across the oceans, when they landed somewhere they would plant the flag of their

sending country and claim it for their king and homeland.

The water and land under his foot represents taking authority over them.

Remember God explained to Joshua that **Josh 1:3**

3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

Everything underfoot of this angel will belong to the Kingdom of God.

And we see next the mighty angel speaks, and claims the earth for its rightful King.

3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars.

When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their

voices. 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their

voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from

heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the

seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

And John hears the mighty roar of a lion, claiming the kingdoms of this earth, declaring that they now belong to the One who paid for it with His Own Blood.

And God answers back with a mighty thunderous
'Amen.'

Seven complete thunders uttered their voices.

**Job 37:5 God thunders marvelously with His voice;
He does great things which we cannot comprehend.**

And here in John's vision, he attempts to write what we cannot comprehend, and a voice from heaven stops him.

It is interesting to point out Psalm 29, where the voice of the Lord that thunders and the voice of the Lord is mentioned seven times in seven different attributes.

However, to look any further into this section would be speculative.

No one knows what God told John to seal up, many men have attempted to claim they know what God uttered here, but God is silent.

And you know what if God is silent, I have no problem being silent.

God knows us best, and if God explains here to John humanity does not need to know this part, then I am good with that.

Deut. 29:29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

And honestly there is enough to contend with in the revealed Word of God, that these secret things do not intrigue me the least.

Do you ever notice those cults and people who are so consumed with the secret mysteries of God, usually are missing the obvious parts of scripture.

They always try to drag you into a debate, they have been enlightened to the deeper mysteries found in God's Word.

And you are the fool, who doesn't pursue these things. Yet, they usually miss obvious things, like loving your wife like Christ loves the church.

When I am approached by one who has been enlightened, I usually try to real the conversation to things we know for sure of God's Word, and ask things "So how is your marriage doing?"

If it is a man, "how's work going?" "You know the Bible says if a man does not provide for his own family he has denied the faith and worse than an unbeliever."

For some reason my encounters with the 'deeper mystery' cults, almost always these men are so consumed with their deeper mysteries, they usually do not work, and their poor wife is carrying the household.

"Sinless perfection guy" didn't work, angry, abusive.

The scriptures simply looked at quickly diffused his deeper understanding.

And you know these enlightened ones, usually focus on things so deep, they fail to realize the consequences of not following the simpler things.

And when you present the Word of God to them, and they are confronted with the simple truths of God's

Word, the deeper mysteries usually become less of a concern.

It is simple for me, God said seal this part up, the rest of Revelation is open for us, but not this part, so it's simple, we move on.

To tell you the truth, it is hard enough to do things like 'love my enemies, and to do good to those who do me harm," you know things like that.

Next John sees...

5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

We see another indication here this angel is not the Lord Jesus.

This angel takes an oath and swears by God, showing that God is greater than the angel is.

Had this been Jesus, He would have sworn by Himself.

Remember when God made His covenant with Abraham, it is explained in **Heb. 6:13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself.**

Here the angel swears by One who is greater, even the greatest.

He swore by a timeless God who created heaven and earth.

Understand Jesus is Creator.

Col 1:15-18 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the

firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

It is difficult for me to understand Jesus taking an oath like this, if He was indeed the One whom created.

So this angel declares there will be no delay, the last trumpet is about to sound, and the end will come.

As spoken through God's prophets.

We see here a mystery or a truth concerning God's will being revealed through the final part that has yet to be fully revealed.

This mystery being the final fulfillment of God's kingdom, that was declared in bits and pieces through the Old Testament prophets and will finally be manifest.

Jesus will come and establish the final Kingdom, the Kingdom above all other Kingdoms, as the Millennial Kingdom is ushered in at the end of the seventh trumpet.

Now, for many who see this angel as Jesus do so in a broad timeline, as Hebrew literature does often, it will

give us broad timelines and then narrow in on details of those timelines.

And many see this vision being a broad timeline, and John is jumping ahead to when Christ will come and take His rule.

But we see the vision is timestamped, the angel speaks of the seventh trumpet yet to be blown.

So this further shows us, this is an angel, unless you believe Jesus comes in the middle of the tribulation, and then that opens up another trail of confusion.

So remember simple is best.

This most likely is an angel, who comes staking a claim on the sea and the earth for the soon coming King, who will ride in at the end of the tribulation.

Now the scene will go from this mighty angel, and will narrow once again into what he is holding.

And that little book will be now the center of John's attention.

John Eats the Little Book

8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book."

And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Now this strange directive comes from the throne in heaven.

"John, you see that mighty flaming angel over there, well go tell him to give you the book in his hands."

"Ummm, Lord, can you tell him to just give me the book?"

That is what I would have asked.

But look at the obedience of John here in verse 9, as he looks up at that mighty cherub, and he declares... "Give me the little book."

This picture is incredible to me... Can you imagine little John here going up to this angel. "Now you listen here."

But we see John's fear for the voice speaking from heaven leads him to obey.

And if that is not incredible enough, John as he is participating now in this great revelation, he is asked to eat the little scroll.

And the warning there, "John the book will make your stomach bitter, but the taste will be sweet as honey in your mouth."

Verse 10 John takes the book, we see no arguments from John, as ridiculous as this request is.

He takes the scroll, he is probably grateful it is only a small scroll, as he eats this sweet tasting book.

John explains as his body absorbs this book into its system, it turned his stomach bitter.

But we see as this becomes a part of John's being, as his metabolism causes every word to assimilate into and throughout his body.

That in verse 11 the words, are now to be spoken about **many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.**

No wonder his stomach it bitter.

The reality of God's Word inside of him, means now he is entrusted, and commanded here to address the mighty rulers of the earth dwellers.

Now, John was obedient in this his task, and today his writing and revelation has impacted the world many times over.

Now, this picture of eating God's Word has been seen before in the prophets of old.

We even today say things, "Like I am going to sit down and devour this book." So we understand the idiom.

Ezekiel the prophet experienced this as well...

Ezek. 3:1-3 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.

3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.

Ezekiel was then commanded to take his message to people whether they heard or refused.

Then it says in verse 14 of that chapter **Ezek. 3:14 So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me.**

And we see the Word of God was sweet in his mouth and bitter when the reality of what he was called to do hit him.

In fact, it says for seven days he just sat astonished in the next verse.

Jeremiah the prophet experience a similar outcome with God's Word.

Jer. 15:16-18 Your words were found, and I ate them,
And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my
heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of
hosts. 17 I did not sit in the assembly of the mockers,
Nor did I rejoice; I sat alone because of Your hand, For
You have filled me with indignation. 18 Why is my pain
perpetual And my wound incurable, Which refuses to
be healed? Will You surely be to me like an unreliable
stream, As waters that fail?

Jeremiah experienced joy and rejoicing at receiving
God's Word, then the reality of what was given to him
became uncomfortable very quickly.

Now Dr. Walvoord says this about the meaning here in
Revelation 10 for John.

“John by eating the book partakes of its content, and in
his act of obedience appropriates the statements,
promises, and affirmations contained in the book. The
Book itself seems to be a symbol of the Word of God as
it is delivered to men, that is divine revelation given.”

John here is called to faithfully and truthfully to deliver the Word of God committed to him.

And it affects him in two ways, and perhaps we can find our own application here.

The Word of God is sweet, as we receive all the wonderful promises, the knowledge of God's Grace, as it reveals the Father's love for us, and it gives us such a glorious hope and details our future in eternity.

The Word of God is a wonderful assurance and wonderful hope for those who devour it.

It is sweet as we chew on it and our soul delights in it.

Yet there is the other reality of the Word of God, you see to the soul it is sweet, but as it assimilates with our flesh, and the realities of this life are brought to our attention, bitterness can overwhelm us.

The Word of God, not only delivers wonderful promises that are positive and hopeful.

It also reveals God's judgements against those who reject this grace.

It reveals to us that whatever we sow in life, whether to the flesh or to the spirit, we will reap either everlasting life or eternal separation.

The Word of God, for which we are all stewards of, when looked at truthfully and honestly is not always positive and uplifting.

This little Book in the hand of the mighty angel is the Word of God, sweet to the taste, and bitter to our stomach.

John eagerly received the Word from God, but when he realized more prophesy and judgment was ahead, it gave him sorrow of heart.

Now, today the effects of the Word are the same.

It brings a true reality to our understanding of what this world is, and where we are all headed.

And people today reject this reality.

The church today rejects this reality.

People do not want to know the truth regarding this world.

Like our sister who messaged me this week, the church closes its ears to the Word of God, to remain complacent and comfortable.

Teachers oblige to the churchgoers today, and the pulpits are full sweet tasting morsels.

The churchgoer today wants to focus on motivating speeches and positive dialogue, and they pretend the Bible does not speak of a coming judgment.

Another woman wrote me this week, she left our church, because of our approach to scripture, she demanded I move away from Revelation, and the judgments of God, and find more positive things to talk about.

Another woman, when I invited her to our church, when she found out we were going through Revelation, she said no way, that book scares me, and she explained she would not come.

Yet God's Word commands me too...

2 Tim. 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

And it further warns me...

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Church understand we are seeing this today, people no longer desire to know, or even understand the truth.

Truth is relative to what we want to know.

And God's revealed Word is dissected carefully as to not upset a person's comfort.

You understand the Word of God, with all of its bittersweet content, it is how we maneuver through this fallen world, it is our guide, it is a lamp unto our feet, lighting the pathway for us to go.

It does upset our lives, and it is very inconvenient to our personal agendas.

But 2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We are to be in it, to know it, to devour it, that it becomes such a part of our being that we walk through this life according to all it instructs.

Listen Christian, Satan hates God's Word, he hates anyone who reads it, and he works diligently to keep us from it.

He knows when you began to consume it, to feast upon God's Word, its nutrients will give the know how on how to break through his deception.

Christian, if you are not in God's Word daily, pressing in to know Him, to hear His Word, if you are not moving forward in your knowledge of the *Logos*, the reality is you are in a backslidden state.

If you are not moving forward, then you are moving backward, stationary is backward, anything but pressing in, is backslidden.

Now on Wednesday Night, we discussed the importance of this Life giving Word.

It is our daily nutrition, it is vital to our survival spiritually.

We pass out a daily manna every month for you to read through your Bibles in a year.

Understand if you are a mature Christian here this morning, you should be reading through the Bible once a year.

Not as a legalistic guideline, but because the All scripture is given by inspiration of God.

Now if you are a newer Christian make it your practice to read through the New Testament in a year, then as your habit of being in God's Word grows, then naturally you will desire the whole council of God.

Christian this is vital to our faith, that you spend your days learning His Word.

Why don't you? Think about what gets in your way, do you spend more than 15 minutes on Facebook? Do you spend more than 15 minutes watching a show, do you spend more than 15 minutes reading the news?

I will challenge you this, remove whatever it is, that consumes your time, that distracts you from God's Word, and every time you get that urge to look at it, go to God's Word, and don't touch the other thing, until your daily reading is done.

It will change your life.

People say they don't have time to read the Bible, it takes no more than 20 minutes a day to get through the Daily Manna.

Its not a matter of time if we are honest, it is a matter of what is important to you.

"The Old Testament is such a chore to read through."
You might be thinking.

But again, that is that humanistic mindset, you are reading for what you get out of it, instead of reading it, because it is important to God.

Now, I have read through the Bible almost many times now, and I still don't understand everything I read.

Yet, every time through, God reveals a little more, scriptures jump out that didn't perhaps jump out the year prior, and I find it is alive, and active, and it speaks each year, to each year's challenges.

Read it out of obedience to God, not because of how easy or not easy it is.

Now, when you do you will experience the bittersweet realities of God's Word first hand, it is nice to read a little devotional, but devotionals usually focus in on the sweetness, and give you little incomplete sermonettes on how to be happy.

If your devotional is taking the place of reading God's Word, throw it away.

Now, when you read God's Word, this bittersweet combo will become a reality to you very quickly.

Example – This week we started the book of James in our daily reading.

Look how just in a few verses, you are lifted up with sweet words, but the reality of what it is saying turns your stomach.

James 1:2-8 –read with the emotion of it all.

Imagine now trying to sort through life without this kind of instruction, there would be no hope when your wife gets cancer, or when you lose your job.

Without God's word, your Christianity has no guideline into understanding who God is, and How He works.

Without God's Word, you are left to trying to sort through life on your own understanding, and that is hopeless.

In fact, the Bible clearly instructs us

Prov. 3:5-8 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,

And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,

And He shall direct your paths.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;

Fear the Lord and depart from evil.

**8 It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.**

You see, when Satan tempts you to do other things than read your Word, you are then left to lean on your own understanding.

You are now walking your own path, you are trying to be wise in your own eyes.

And when you become the authority of your own spirituality.

I will tell you from experience, that is the danger zone.

Make it your first priority to receive from God's Word, and your walk will grow leaps and bounds, you will see through the deception.

Eph. 6:17-18 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

It is how we resist and stand against the wiles of the devil.

Listen we are in the last hour, the apostasy, the falling away from truth is upon us, this is a great sign, before the final seven years come upon the world.

Church, we need to remain in the Word, all of the Word, the whole of the Word.

It seems everyday the deception grows stronger and stronger.

People even within the church are pulling away from truth and God's Word.

May it not be said of us?

May we continue to press in, and devour God's Word, amen?

Listen, if you are struggling in this area, please come up for prayer during this last song, ask sincerely for God to help you in this area, to desire His Truth, over your own desires.

The Holy Spirit is so faithful, when we ask in our weakness for help, He will.

If you do not know Jesus this morning, the Word of God will make little or no sense to you.

First come to Jesus in Faith, believe that He died for your sins, and made a way for you to have salvation, He freely gives you Grace and an eternal pardon.

Come to Jesus this morning, and the Word of God will come alive.

Now, I want to end by saying this, those Bibles in the pews are for you to take, if you have no Bible.

If you do not have a good Bible Study Bible, I would like to recommend the one I use.

It is the Word for Today Bible, by Chuck Smith, it is a NKJV and Cynthia can order you one if you are interested, they are approximately \$30.

But you know those difficult places in scripture, Pastor Chuck lightly explains them, just enough to keep you moving through your reading.

There are great study helps throughout the Bible.

If you do not have \$30 come talk to me. But get a Bible you can fall in love with and read through and hear from God.

I do a majority of my yearly Bible reading on the You Version Bible App, it is a free app, and they have all kinds of yearly plans to choose from.

Perhaps you do not like the way our daily manna breaks up the Word, personally I like the Old and New together in one day, but maybe you do not.

Well, instead of complaining about it, find another plan that will take you through the whole Bible in a year.

The Daily Manna is great however, when the whole church is reading it, and we are texting each other what God has spoken to us, and we are all on the same page, it really keeps the momentum going when you are going through it with others.

But the resources are there, there should be no excuse, just make time for Him, the *Logos*, the Word.

Amen?