

The Value of the Word

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Isaiah 55:11

It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

Matthew 7:24-27

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

Four types of the Word*

1. The Word of God as the Person of Jesus Christ
John 1:1, Luke 4:14-21
2. The Word of God as speech
3. The Word of God as speech through human lips
1 Corinthians 2:13, 2 Corinthians 13:3
4. The Word of God as the written Scripture

* These four points from Systematic Theology by Grudem

Bible Translations Worldwide*

| <u>Number</u> | <u>Statistic</u> |
|---------------|--|
| 7,099 | Approximate number of languages spoken in the world today |
| 2,584 | Number of translations into new languages currently in progress |
| 1,521 | Number of languages with a translation of the New Testament |
| 670 | Number of languages with a translation of the Bible (Protestant Canon) |

* Source: Wycliffe, New Tribes/Ethos360

Characteristics of the Word

- Good News
- Infallible
- Life-giving
- Trustworthy
- Everlasting
- Good
- And so much more ...

Benefits to the believer

- New life
 - 1 Peter 1:23
- Instruction

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- Healing, physical and soul
- Battle, a weapon against the enemy
 - Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12
- Hope and encouragement
- Unity

Value of our words

- Whenever you speak
 - 1 Peter 4:11 “Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.”
- Let you yes be yes and your no be no
 - James 5:12
 - Matthew 5:33-37
- Save lives – Proverbs 12:6b “the words of the godly save lives.”
- Precious – Proverbs 10:20a “The words of the godly are like sterling silver”
- Encouragement – Proverbs 10:21a “The words of the godly encourage many”

What should we do?

- Read the Word
 - Psalm 119:11 “I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”
- Pray the Word
 - Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”
- Speak the Word
 - Psalm 19:14 “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”
- Practice the Word
 - Luke 11:28 – Jesus replied, “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.”

How can they hear ...?

“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” Romans 10:14-15