

The _____ Value of The _____
1 Peter 2:1-3; Selected Scriptures
By
D.Z. Cofield, Th.M., D. Min.
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Jeremiah 15:16 (ESV) - Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

1. You must _____ the _____ to your **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**. (v. 1)
1 Peter 2:1 (NKJV) - Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,
1 Peter 2:1 (NLT) - So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech.

Laying aside - ἀποτίθημι; **Transliteration:** apotithēmi.

1 Peter 1:22 (NRSV) - Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.

- A. _____ -
B. _____ -
C. _____ -
D. _____ -
E. _____ -

Romans 13:12 (NLT) - The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living.

Colossians 3:8 (NLT) - But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

James 1:21 (NLT) - So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

2. You must _____ the _____ of _____. (v. 2a)
1 Peter 2:2a (NKJV) - as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, . . .
1 Peter 2:2a (NLT) - Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk . . .
Desire (Crave) - ἐπιποθέω; **Transliteration:** epipothēō.

Pure -

Psalm 34:8 (ESV) - Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Proverbs 8:17 (ESV) - I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

Isaiah 55:6-7 (ESV) - Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV) - You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

3. You must realize your **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** is directly tied to you _____ and _____ the Word of God (v. 2b-3)

1 Peter 2:2-3 (NKJV) - as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

1 Peter 2:2-3 (NLT) - Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

Grow - αὐξάνω; **Transliteration:** auxanō.

Job 23:12 (ESV) - I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.

Psalm 19:7-11 (NLT) - The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living. ⁹ Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair. ¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. ¹¹ They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them.

Psalm 119:9-12 (ESV) - How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! ¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ¹² Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!

Acts 20:32 (ESV) - And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Questions to Consider

1. What's the strangest craving you've ever heard of?
2. What things in life do you crave?
3. What do you do to meet a craving?
4. How important do you think it is to get rid of all evil behavior if you're going to grow spiritually?
5. What's the relationship between the five things Peter tells you to lay aside and your ability to love others?
6. What sins (such as malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander, etc.) do you need to work to get rid of starting right now?
7. According to 1 Peter 2:3, why should you crave the Word of God?
8. What can you do to start craving godly things, including the Word of God?
9. Since there is a direct correlation between learning the Word of God and spiritual growth, as you look at your level of spiritual maturity, how much more time do you need to spend learning the Word?
10. What steps will you take right away in order to learn and live the Word of God?

Day 15: October 8, 2017

Take Time To Be Holy

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

Growing up in a United Methodist church meant that you sang lots of hymns. Even today, I still remember the words from a number of them. As I've gotten older and continue to progress through the Christian discipleship process, one thing stands clear, God's desire for His children to be holy, as He is holy (Lev. 11:44; 1 Pet. 1:16). This brings to mind a devotional hymn we would sing entitled, "*Take Time To Be Holy*."¹ What I have come to realize is that pursuing holiness is the key to a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with God. Seeking holiness means you desire a life without doubt or fear, a heart that wholly loves and trusts God. Does your world have you moving so fast that you have forgotten to "*Take Time to Be Holy*"?

In today's text, the psalmist testifies that the key to a deeper, more fulfilling relationship and fellowship with a holy God is to live a life totally devoted to God. This means holy living, living a life set apart or separate from sin and evil. The starting point for holy living is not only to cherish and rejoice in God's word, His special revelation, but also responding appropriately to His word. The psalmist recognized and accepted the authority of the Word of God as the means of walking in a manner worthy of the Lord.

To this end, the psalmist had "*stored up*" (KJV - "*hid*", NASB - "*treasured*") God's word on account of its value to him. He internalized and rejoiced in God's Word, so that he might be morally pure, separate from sin and evil. He "*stored up*" the word of God, in his heart, the center of the moral and spiritual life, the center of the will and intellect, the inner man. The heart is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, and endeavors. Concerning the heart, Jesus explained that, "*For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander*" (Matthew 15:19, ESV). Because the heart is at the root of the problem, this is the place where God does His work, with His word, in the individual.

Treasuring God's word in the heart is a means to an end, "*that I might not sin against you.*" Sin is missing the mark of God's standard of perfection, of God's holiness, rebellion against God. Therefore all sin is repulsive to a holy God.

Christian, your progress in God's sanctification process is directly tied to what you do with His word. God's word is the best preventive against offending God, for it tells us His mind and will, and tends to bring our spirit into conformity with the divine Spirit. No cure for sin in the life is equal to the word in the seat of life, which is the heart. You must spend time in the word and treasure it in your heart. In other words, "*Take time to be Holy.*"

It is not our promises to the Lord, but His promises to us, that will give us victory over sin.²

The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.

- Mark Slone

¹ William D. Longstaff, "*Take Time to Be Holy*", ca. 1882, *The United Methodist Hymnal*, No. 395

² *Bible Exposition Commentary* (BE Series) – Old Testament – Wisdom and Poetry.

Day 16: October 9, 2017

Agreeing with God's Word

I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us.

Psalm 119:13 (ESV)

Have there ever been any rules in school, your job or in society that you did not agree with? I know I am not the only person who disagrees with the speed limit on certain roadways. I know abiding by some rules and regulations are very difficult, and because we find them difficult often we break them. Rules and regulations are in place, whether we agree with them or not, to ensure our well-being. They are created for our safety, and the safety of others around us. However, when we do agree with the rules and regulations in place, we abide by them with no problem. We will even share with others our agreement with the regulations in place. On the flipside, how do we view the rules and regulations of God? Those standards and regulations in place not only can protect us physically, but most importantly, spiritually.

In Psalm 119:13, the psalmist recites aloud all the regulations God has given. In other words, the psalmist agrees with what God sees as wrong and what He sees as right. Everything God stands for and everything He is, is declared from the mouth of the psalmist. The rules, regulations and judgments of God are boldly recited aloud by the psalmist, and he has no issue with sharing with the world.

Today, Christians are afraid to boldly declared the regulations of God, in fear of how they will be treated, viewed or judged. As Christians, only God's opinion matters and we should have no problem declaring and agreeing with all of God's regulations. We cannot agree with some of God's regulations and not others. A Christian should agree with all of God's regulations, and see wrong and right as God sees it.

What rules, regulations or judgments do you not agree with that God has put in place? The answer should be none, because there is no regulation of God that will harm or hurt us. There is no regulation of God that we should not be able to boldly declare to a dying world. Just as the psalmist could recite aloud all the regulations God has given us, we too should be able to do the same. The fact is, the world needs God's regulations and judgments. The world needs the standards of God. Sharing what God has given us is not a choice, but is a command. Will you recite aloud all the regulations of God?

Identify any regulations of God that you are struggling to agree with and ask God to help you to become fully committed to His standards.

The regulations of God are just and fair, not because you agree with them, but because they are from God.

- Shad Comeaux

Day 17: October 10, 2017

Get Rich Quick or Get Rich F.I.T.?

¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. . . . ⁷² The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver. . . . ¹²⁷ Truly, I love your commands more than gold, even the finest gold. . . . ¹⁶² I rejoice in your Word like one who discovers a great treasure. - Psalm 119:14 (NIV), 72 (ESV), 127, 162 (NLT)

According to Wikipedia, a get rich scheme is a plan to obtain high rates of return for a small investment. The term "get rich quick" has been used to describe shady investments since the 1900's. "I must confess that I have tried or been offered ways that I could get rich quick. I tried selling Kirby Vacuum Cleaners, Amway Products, Electricity (Ignite) and was even offered an opportunity to make FAST money selling fine Wine and Fancy Art. The bait used to get me to try and sign on the dotted line was the temptation for me to "get rich quick."

To be honest, I was truly trying to gain a lot of cash; quick, fast, and in a hurry! As much as it is difficult for me to acknowledge that, I see now, that certainly was the truth. In short, I was a "lover of money." In retrospect, I realize and understand wholeheartedly, that my actions were speaking loud and clear. My love for money was greater than my love for the Word of God.

How do we develop a sincere love for reading God's Word more than we rejoice in reading "quick pick" lottery numbers? I believe we can rediscover our love for God's Word by not striving to Get Rich Quick but striving to Get Rich F.I.T. We need a plan that will encourage us to "*delight in the law of the Lord*" (Psa. 1a). We need some fuel, if you will, that will motivate us to get back to being a lover of God's Word. I suggest that we as believers need to Get Rich F.I.T. This is an acronym that simply stands for FIX, INSPIRE, TIP.

First, we need to understand that all of us are in some need of FIXING. If you need a gentle reminder stop by Romans 3:23 and you will see that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The more we allow God's Word to FIX us, the more we begin to look like Christ. When we rejoice in God's fixing process the more we realize there is no amount of gold or silver in the world that can take the place of God conforming and molding us to be more like Him.

Secondly, we need to allow God's word to INSPIRE us. 2 Timothy 3:16 says that, "*All Scripture is INSPIRED by God*" (NLT). Have you been down and out and you received a word from God and it inspired you? I remember once when I was literally at the point of giving up I was distraught and very much at the end of my rope, God gave me enough strength to pray one simple prayer. I said, "Father I'm hurting and I'm tired, but if you give me a Word right now I know I will be ok." And at that very moment while sitting in my car, the Lord told me to read Hebrews chapter 11. As I begin reading this Hall of Faith chapter, God's overwhelming peace came over me reassuring me that I wasn't alone and I would be ok.

Thirdly, we can surely delight in God's Word by remembering that God's Word will TIP you! Most of us are aware of the fact that there are restaurants that have wait staff who rightfully expect to be tipped. Now a TIP is basically any sum of money that you can leave that's "extra" or over and above the amount of the bill. As I was thinking about the Word of God, I was reminded how the word TIPS us over and over again. The word gives an EXTRA DOSE that should create in us a love for God's Word that far exceeds any treasures that this world may offer. Consider God's TIP in Ephesians 3:20, which says that He is able to do (here comes the TIP) exceeding (TIP) abundantly (TIP) above all that we ask or think, (TIP) according to the power that worketh in us.

Consider God's TIP in Malachi 3:10 or His TIP in Ephesians 2:8-9, just to name a few. Thanks be to God even when we fail God with our service time and time again He is still there to TIP us of His Grace and Mercy.

Say "Goodbye" to "Get Rich Quick" and say "Hello" to "Get Rich F.I.T." where God's Word will FIX you INSPIRE you and TIP you, even when we don't deserve it!

There is a beautiful song by Ernest Pugh, entitled, "Trade It All," that will remind you that gold, silver, and diamonds cannot be compared to the true riches of God. Listen (YouTube) and be blessed.

- Terry Borens

Day 18: October 11, 2017

Bondage or Freedom Depends on What You Seek After

⁴⁴ So I will keep Your law continually, Forever and ever. ⁴⁵ And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts.

Psalms 119:44-45 (NASB)

Can you imagine what it is like being a prisoner in a State Penitentiary? As a prisoner, you are confined to a small jail cell that is usually six by eight feet in size with steel or brick walls and a solid or barred door that locks from the outside. As you walk from one place to another, armed officers, who may not be deemed as the nicest folks, escort you. Thick heavy chains shackle your hands and feet that jingle and rattle with each step. In the mornings you get breakfast and a sack lunch that consists of two pieces of bologna, four slices of bread, a pack of mustard, or a few peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. You feel as if they are trying to starve you. They serve dinner every evening at 5 pm, which consists of two over boiled wieners, three slices of stale white bread and a spoon full of Van Decamps pork & beans. And you have no friends in prison. Sure there are a few that pretend to be your friend, when you give them something. But if you cross them, they will cut you. Being a prisoner is being in bondage. To be a prisoner is to be a slave. As a prisoner, there is only one thing that you long for. You hope that someday you will be free! But as you pier through your bars of your jail cell, you wonder, when is "someday?"

The primary theme of the Psalms 119 is the joy of God's Word in distress. In Psalms 119:45 the writer says he will walk in unlimited freedom because he seeks God's precepts. By "walk", the psalmist means to journey through life with the freedom to enjoy God's provisions. The reason he has freedom to enjoy life is that he seeks God's precepts. In other words, he consults with, inquires of, and frequents God's Word. As a result, he is no longer a prisoner of sin. No only this, but consider what the writer says in verse 44. He keeps God's Law always and forever.

The point is, you were in a spiritual jail cell, a prisoner of depravity and walking in the perverted ways of the world. You were in shackles of unrighteousness and escorted through life by the desires of your flesh. You suffered from spiritual malnourishment searching for and indulging in things that only temporarily pleasure. You were a prisoner held captive by sin and on death row, waiting for God's lethal injection, called wrath and eternal condemnation. But the Lord posted bail on your behalf, because Christ paid the penalty for your crimes (sin), when He died on the cross. The righteous Judge has declared you innocent of all charges and made you free. Now you at have access to God, to inquire of His word, to consult with Him in prayer, frequent His Word, and trust in His promises.

As an ex-convict, set free by the blood of Christ, are you walking in freedom? Or are you still living as a prisoner? It all depends on what you are seeking: God's Precepts or the empty promises of the world.

"I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death." - Patrick Henry, speech in the Virginia Convention, 23 Mar 1775

So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. **John 8:36**

- Darrell Rose

Day 19: October 12, 2017

Wisdom from the Word

Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Your commandments.

Psalm 119:66 (NASB)

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself." While that plan may keep you from making some of the same mistakes that others have made, it won't keep you from making your own. You don't want to live life from studying mistakes! God has a much better plan and it's His Word, insight for living. Not just avoiding the mistakes of others, but being able to make decisions in every area of life that demonstrates wisdom.

In Psalm 119:66, the Psalmist exhorts God to "teach" him, to impart skills or knowledge to him. This first implies that he believes God is the source for gaining what was lacking within himself and what others were unable to provide. Proverbs 2:6 says, "For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding." James 1:5 says, "But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him." In 1 Kings 3:9, Solomon, after becoming king as a young child, prayed to God for what he needed to rightly live before and lead God's people. Next, the Psalmist asked God for something of value in producing fruitful living, wisdom. The two components of wisdom from our text are discernment and knowledge.

Discernment or judgment involves knowing how to act or what to do in a particular situation. This is coupled with knowledge, which is your learning and understanding, which is used when focusing it on the current situation at hand. It is said, "Wisdom is the right application of knowledge at the right time. The Psalmist believes God is the one to teach him wisdom because he believes in God's word. It is through God's word that you will hear God impart discernment and knowledge into your heart. It is through God's word that you will learn wisdom for marriage, for parenting, for holy living, for loving others, for resolving conflict, for forgiving others, for helping others, for all of life's needs. James 3:17 describes God's wisdom as "pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy." He says that this wisdom is "from above." God's word is from above!

During a football game, there are coaches that are on the field with the players, right in the middle of the actions with a similar line of sight. No advantage over their opponent. The difference maker comes from the coaches that are sitting in the press boxes high above the field looking down on the game. They can discover what adjustments need to be made for the current situation at the exact time in order to position their team for the score. They communicate what they see to the coaches on the field so that the right play can be called at the right time. God is your Coach in the heavenly press box looking down on your life and He is communicating through His word the wisdom you need for the current situation at the exact time. Run God's play by obeying His word and score!

Review your current situation. Go to the Scriptures for God's word. Apply the knowledge from God's word and celebrate with a victory dance! REPEAT THIS ACTION AS OFTEN AS NEEDED!!!

The wisdom found in God's word can keep you from learning through affliction.

- Ronell Peters

Day 20: October 13, 2017

Soul Seal

My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Your word.

Psalms 119:28 (NASB)

205,000 miles. To you that number might not mean anything but, to me that means built Ford tough. My car has been faithful to me for over 10 years now and I am thankful. When I first got the car I was driving and my tire started to make a noise. I went to the gas station and put some air in it. Luckily, I made it home. The next day I saw the tire was low again, so I took it to the tire shop. They said I had a leak that was weakening my air pressure. They said it could be fixed with a seal. I asked how much would it cost? The tire shop said free. Many of us have a leak, but the leak is not in our tire it is in our souls. A leak that has you weakened to the point of sorrow and dismay.

The psalmist in our passage for today proclaims how his own soul weeps because of grief. The word use for “weeps” could be depicted as water dripping, uncontrollably, from a roof. We see that a soul can cry out. When grief increases, it threatens to turn a glorious life, into a long painful existence. The psalmist seems to leak away in a perpetual drip of grief, but he gives us a solution: the word of the living God.

Have you had a leak in your soul? What caused it? What did you do? How did it work out? For most of you, your soul leaks from an experience called life. Life comes at you fast; and sometimes it comes with a ton of bricks behind it ready to knock you down for the count. Many of us try different ways to seal our sorrow, grief, or dissatisfaction. Attempts to cure grief include happy hours, smoking, working out, sex, and all sorts of coping cover-ups. The world would tell you that the only way to get out of a bad situation is to strengthen yourself through some means and put things back together. If you have trusted in Jesus, we must first realize that you are weak and need help. We have to understand we are weak so that God and His word can strengthen us. Even though the psalmist soul cried out in grief, he knew the source of his strength was God's word.

When you are in hard times, the word of God can seal and strengthen your spiritual tire from leaking out of your soul. Prayerfully this week, you will lean on the word of God to strengthen you..

The darker the night, the brighter the stars, The deeper the grief,
Dostoyevsky

the closer is God! - Fyodor

- Dennis Campbell

Day 21: October 14, 2017

Trust the Word

⁴¹ LORD, show me your faithful love. Save me, as you promised. ⁴² Then I will have an answer for those who make fun of me for trusting what you say.

Psalm 119:41-42 (ERV)

During the cold war in the 1980s President Reagan popularized the phrase “trust but verify” in reference to reliable and increased transparency concerning Russia’s nuclear arsenals. He was concerned about the outcome of negotiations to end the cold war. He discovered the phrase was a well-known proverb to Russians and he could use it to better communicate and understand Russian people. This phrase has allowed people to be more distrustful in relationships with others. Another often used phrase comes from the state of Missouri. If someone was born in the state of Missouri that might tell you I am from the ‘show me state’ to let you know I must see it before I can trust what you are telling me.

Sadly, the phrase ‘trust but verify’ shows up in our relationship with God. God wants us to trust Him always but even with a blessed history with God we treat Him with a trust by verify mentality. We act as if the sovereign God of the universe is unfaithful, absent and lacks power in our circumstances.

Trust but verifies is more about trusting the outcome versus trusting the relationship. The psalmist in our text is focused on the relationship he has with Yahweh (LORD). In his time of uncertainty and conflict with his enemies he calls on God. He did not call others to discuss handling his enemies who would make fun of him or despise him.

He calls out to God to deliver on His promise that He would deliver him in times of trouble. David the psalmist had confidence in God because God had already proved His faithfulness to him. David had a relationship with Yahweh. The relationship was nurtured in the victorious battles against the Philistines, in the defeat of Goliath the giant and in the deliverance from the sword of Saul. David cries to God to deliver me with your faithful love that is always present and then I will declare to my enemy that the word of your promises is trustworthy.

Believer I don’t know what you are facing that prevents you from trusting God’s word that he is a very present help when trouble comes. I do know the LORD has a proven track record that you can trust. Trusting God’s word means you need to depend on your relationship with Him and examine what He has already done for you.

He has verified He is all-powerful and faithful even in your unfaithfulness. He has verified He loves you when He sent His only begotten Son to die for your sin sick soul. He has verified He is a God of mercy morning by morning. He has verified that His grace is sufficient for you when you are at your weakest. Just as the psalmist has done you can believe God’s promises in His word declare the bible is right and sing I will trust in the Lord until I die.

Trusting God’s word comes by action. You must test His promise that He will never leave you nor forsake you. You must test His promise that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

I Know the Bible is Right and somebody is wrong!

- *Ronald Bell*