**Devoted to the Apostle’s Teaching**

**Why should we be devoted to the Apostle’s Teaching?**

A. We need to remember that this is God’s Word. 1 Thess 2:13. “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.?”

Perhaps we take this for granted, but when we read the Bible, God is talking directly to us!!!

B. It is inspired and perfect. 2 Peter 1:19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

We have the truth and the truth has set us free.

Like David said, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” Psalm 119:105

I believe this. Why?

1. Because of the crazy fulfilled prophecies, especially of the Messiah.

According to the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, he must:

1. be despised and rejected.

2. be pierced.

3. be crucified.

4. have people divide and gamble for his clothing at his crucifixion.

5. be born in Bethlehem.

6. be from Galilee, in the vicinity of Nazareth.

7. be sold for thirty pieces of silver.

8. ride into Jerusalem on a donkey

8. come to Jerusalem about 30 AD.

2. Because the Bible is by far the most reliable history of the ancient world.

3. Because, despite having more than fifty authors, over nearly 2000 years, it has a unified message. Like the Hebrew writer says (Hebrews 1:1 “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways….

God spoke through history, poetry, prophecy, proverb and vision.

God spoke through kings (David, Solomon), patriarchs (Moses), poets (Asaph), scribes (the history books), priests (Ezra), prophets, prophetesses (Deborah), government administrators (Nehemiah), farmers (Amos) and more.

Each writer brought out a particular aspect of God’s nature.

Hosea: the grace of God

Amos: social justice

Isaiah: the holiness of God

David: the heart of God

4. Because there are literally no contradictions, either of fact, teaching or doctrine, despite the many authors.

I guarantee it, if you read my books, I contradict myself many times! I changed my mind. But God does not.

5. Because the Bible is inspired, even in its scientific content.

6. Because the Bible is the greatest book of philosophy, child-raising, ethics, business, personal finance, psychology…. In the world.

7. Because Jesus, who was raised from the dead, believed it was from God.

8. Because it works. John 7:17 “If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

Jesus: Try it. You will see.

9. Because it has been accurately transmitted and faithfully translated.

**How, then are we to be devoted to the Apostle’s Teaching?** So what will we do with this Bible? Will we be “devoted to the apostle’s teaching?

For some of us, we have become like the Jews in Numbers 11:4-6

I am occasionally tempted to have this attitude, but then I forget Deuteronomy 8:3 “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”

We go through the motions.

Is this Word of God your food? Is it what sustains you on a daily basis?

For me it is. I am still SOOOOOO excited about studying God’s word.

Just last week I was studying John and saw how the apostle John makes parallels with Moses throughout the book. It opened my eyes!!!

Our main (really our only) passage for our lesson:

Hebrews 5:11-14

Their ears are dull *nothros* slow-moving in mind, torpid, witlessly forgetful, dull of hearing. God has spoken to you repeatedly and you JUST DON’T GET IT.

Q: Is that you?

Like a doctor who says, it was good enough when I was in med school 50 years ago, so it is good enough for me now.

A case of arrested development. Childish (vs childlike) Is that you?

You ought by now to be “prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

Why is Calvinism wrong?

Why Christianity and not another religion?

What about the violence in the Old Testament?

Why do good people suffer?

How can we be saved by baptism if baptism is a work and we are not saved by works?

Brothers and sisters, we need to engage our mind in the great task of getting to know God!!! (and putting his precepts into practice)

But I’m busy in school. So…….!

I am working a lot of hours. So…..!

v. 13 Anyone on milk is, by definition, an infant.

Taking in solid food requires training. Practicing.

6:1-2 Elementary teachings

a. repentance

b. faith

c. baptism

d. the Holy Spirit In the early church, they layed hands on the baptized person as a symbol of receiving the HS.

e. Resurrection

f. Judgment

I have a couple of goals:

1. To know every book in the Bible in-depth. I am about 55% through my plan.

2. I want to be able to literally think in Bible, like it is a language.

I saw Sam Laing doing that this weekend.

Oh yeah that is like Isaiah 7….

A person is struggling with doubts about God’s providence. You can whip out ten scriptures. You are a walking topical Bible.

Some of us have rust on our sword. We need to oil that sword, sharpen it, and start using it.

Practicals:

Don’t just show up to the sermons this month on Philippians. Study it for yourself.

Take part in our class on Acts this Fall.

Buy a commentary (or get a free one on line).

Study out a doctrine or a hard question.

Memorize scripture.