

“Knowing God’s word - the crucial investment”

Online service sheet during the coronavirus.

Reading Psalm 78:1-8, 40-55

Reading 2 Tim 3:10-17

Sermon Title: “Knowing God’s word - the crucial investment”

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Reflective prayer what does this mean for me Lord.....

Close

Welcome

Welcome to you this morning at KNBC. We are so glad you can join again and pray that this morning the Lord’s is lifted high in your private worship and will speak powerfully to you through His word now. This we come to. Our passage is 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:10-17 and particularly v 15 Pray

- What a disaster it is to lose your home! One lady I knew had to leave her home after it was completely blown up due to a gas leak.
- During there war many had to leave their homes because they were “bombed out”. The urgent need is another house to live in.
- But one mother chose, chose to leave her home and took to the road with her husband and 4yr old son. She said “I’m a gypsy soul. The idea of selling off all worldly possessions to travel the world with only a backpack and my family has always seemed like a pipe dream”. Well that is what they did and indulged in her wanderlust.

Just as having a home is crucial to a good upbringing so is having the word of God. Not to have this is like walking away from home. Other things are often luxuries - not a home.

v15 “and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” 2Tim 3:15

This morning we are thinking about God’s word, the Bible

And particularly knowing God’s word

The question for you is “Do you know God’s word”? x2 And if you are a parent have you taught - are you teaching, God’s word to your children?

- My sister Sarah has a few stories to tell about being a film extra. Some films have so many you thing everyone’s in it.

So also with the message this morning, you are all in it. Everyone listening is in it, if you are a parent you are in it, or if you are a child you are in it. If an adult you are in it. Parents did you teach God’s Word? Children did you learn God’s word? Adults (and children) what have you done with it?

Three sections:

Teaching	or Sowing	Something parents do
Learning	Growing	Something children do
Responding	Reaping	Something we all do

1. Teaching, or sowing

Something parents do

Timothy knew the scriptures, and it started at the beginning of his life - **and how from infancy** (a baby) **you have known the holy Scriptures**, that is the OT. What’s his story? Timothy was from Lystra in modern southern Turkey. We are told his **mother was a Jewess and a believer, but his father was a Greek.** Ac 16:1 It was a mixed area with Jews and gentiles living alongside each other. Timothy like many had mixed parents; mixed ethnically, but also mixed religiously. Later Paul says of Timothy he **wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.** Ac 16:3

We cannot choose our parents, God does that for us. Some have godly parents, most don’t. For Timothy it was a mixture. His mother was a Jew and father a pagan, a Greek. They believed very different things.

So where did his knowledge of the Bible come from? It was from his godly mother - and she heard it from her godly mother. Paul says: “**I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.**” 2 Ti 1:5

His father was not strong in his beliefs and allowed his wife to teach the children Judaism, a recognized religion in the Roman Empire and also protected. So he may have thought it was OK. Timothy was allowed to be taught the scriptures, but not be circumcised, that would have gone too far.

His mother’s line we Jews and were godly, they were true Jews who loved the Lord. His mother Eunice had been brought up with the Scriptures from her mother Lois and she in turn now passed them on to Timothy. She did so

because she saw the value of them, - she did so because she knew the value of them. - She did so because her Lord had said she should.

“**5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up...**” De 6:5-7

They both loved God, they lived and breathed His word, they wanted to obey what He had clearly taught in the passing on of His word to children.

**Impress them on your children** x2 Lois > Eunice and now Eunice > Timothy. Taught in obedience and out of love for God, Timothy not only learned the scriptures but saw them worked out in his mother and grandmother’s life.

**They knew that to the scriptures lead to God - it was the highway to life. To grow up without them is to be far from God - and the low road to misery.**

- In the preface to my Bible I read: The translators were committed to the authority and infallibility of the Bible as God’s Word in written form. They believe that it contains the divine answer to the deepest needs of humanity, - that it sheds unique light on our path in a dark world, - and that it sets forth the way to our eternal well-being.

So I am talking to you parents, and any of you in a position to teach others.. Have you taught your children the word of God? Don’t neglect this, x2

Eph 6:4 **Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. ‘do not exasperate’ = do not overdo it, a rare think indeed these days – but do under do it – all too common.**

Fathers, mothers, God has charged you with teaching your children, don’t leave it to the church, it is not the church’s responsibility - it is your responsibility! At Church we teach the children of parents outside who won’t teach them. They won’t - and they can’t - they have no concern for it themselves. So we are glad to teach them and invest God’s word into their young lives. It is the greatest privilege and joy to do so.

✚ **The best thing is for every child is to know the word of God** x2

To know God’s word is to know about God. To know God’s word is to know what God has done. To know God is the creator, and they are made in his image. Your child will understand God’s holiness, He/she will understand their sinfulness - but also God’s amazing love and grace in Christ, who entered this world to suffer and die for sinners. In Christ your child can find forgiveness for sin and a sure hope for eternity. With Him

your child can avoid all the foolishness of the world and in this short life - live a good life, - a godly life - the best of lives!

✚ **If you love your children then teach them the word of God**

- **The house is a picture of belonging, order, stability and safety.**

**Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.** Pr 9:1

**The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.** Pr 14:1

Do you watch over your house and maintain it, keep it up? Or have you neglected it? **I see houses with doors hanging off their hinges and broken windows**, “I would never allow that” you think. - Yes it is most important!

But do you watch over, maintain, keep up the far more important task of teaching your children’s God’s word? Lois did with Eunice, Eunice did with Timothy. Don’t now neglect your responsibility. Don’t be lazy. Don’t fail to teach your children. It requires effort, it requires time. You will need to set time aside, but it’s the best use of time, it’s the great investment. Parents don’t neglect this, make sure your children – entrusted to you by God - have it ingrained into them from the start, you are investing in their precious life.

**Train a child in the way he should go... can you finish this proverb? and when he is old he will not turn from it.** Prov 22:6

There is such an array of good children’s bibles and other material, from the youngest age upwards. Are you often at the Christian bookshop? searching, asking advice, do they know you there? Are you a regular customer?

You need to be a step ahead, don’t just teach your children in a mechanical way, maybe you feel you ought because your mum or dad would like it, no teach it sincerely, and live it. ... because you love your children.

If you hate your child then don’t tell them, say nothing

1. Let them find out for themselves, (they won’t)
2. let them learn it at school (they won’t)
3. don’t tell them anything and then let them decide – that’s no choice!

- **Years ago a young man committed a series crime and was heading to the gallows. When the day came and the crowds were gathered he asked before he was led to the noose and death that he might have a last word with his mother who was there watching and grieving from a distance. “Yes you may”, all watched as he went over and appeared to whisper in her ear, but were shocked when they saw the blood and heard the scream. He had sunk his teeth into**

her ear having said "If you had brought me up properly, and taught me properly I would not be here now".

*2<sup>ndly</sup> Knowing and growing,* (something children do)

**"and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures,"** I'm addressing you who have had the Bible taught to you from the earliest days.

It is easy to learn when you are a child. On top of that the OT is full of great stories full of meaning and very memorable.

Things stay with you, you may not be able to instantly recall it – but it is there, planted, imbedded, lodged in your mind.

- John Newton the converted slave trader lost his mother when he was just nine. She was a godly woman who for those nine years taught him the word of God. Later, those words were to come back to him, thanks to that early urgent careful influence by his Godly mother.

A certain set of circumstances, a prompt and *the conscience led mind* brings it up. There it is, up pops the warning sign, the stop sign, the turn right sign, the strong sense that says: **"this is the way walk in it"**. God Word with all its wisdom is your great guide. It's your good friend in life. It can save you from trouble from disaster, from making a mess of things as so many do

Ps 1 **"Blessed is the man who avoids sin and the things of this world ...But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. The LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish."** Timothy as leader of the church is going through troubled times. Paul says: "Remember the scriptures you have had right from the beginning, they haven't changed, see how beneficial they have been? Stand by them now"

If your parents taught you - Don't forget it. If you have had the bible taught you then you are very privileged. Don't become blaze about it, or cynical or bitter. Beware PK, MK, you are in a very privilege position don't push back against it. You have a foundation that few others have. Don't be dismissive!

Knowing the Bible gives you a reference, to understand and assess the truth of what is going on all around, in the world, in the family, and in your heart.

For ex: Timothy's Mum and Dad thought differently, they served different masters, knowing the Bible brings what is confusing - into sharp focus.

- If I can return to the house analogy, to know God's word is a framework, walls around you - to keep you safe. A floor built on a

good foundation - a firm foundation for your life. A roof over your head to protect from the storms of life that come, and they will come. And windows to look out onto the world and understand how things are, windows from which to look out in safety.

If the home is a good home don't run away from it, The homeless man or woman, who lives outside without a house is prone to attack, at the mercy of the elements, vulnerable to anything and everything - with no defense.

But above all God's word points to God. To Christ who is God and who can save you from the dreadful judgment that is due to all people. Through his work on the cross He can save you from all the wrong you have done against Him - and bring you peace with God – and a new life with God. The word of God shows you the way, it leads you to see sin and repent of it.

You have been taught the scriptures that can save you from hell - and lead you to heaven – what have you done with them? Nothing? Nothing? To do nothing will lead – one day – to the inevitable judgment and hell.

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote to the parents in the church regarding their children.

- My dear brothers and sisters, a little while ago, at a meeting for prayer, where a large number of ministers were gathered together. The subject of prayer was, 'Our Children.' It soon brought tears to my eyes to hear those good fathers pleading with God for their sons and daughters. As they went on entreating the Lord to save their families, my heart seemed ready to burst with strong desire that, it might be even so. Then I thought I will write to those sons and daughters, and remind them of their parent's prayers.

Here's the letter he produced saying "O Lord bless this letter!"

- "Dear ..... your children's names here (Samuel and Vanessa), you are highly privileged in having parents who pray for you. Your name, is known in the courts of heaven. Your case has been laid before the throne of God. Do you pray for yourself? If you do not do so, why not? If other people value your soul, can it be right for you to neglect it? All the entreaties and wrestlings of your father will avail you nothing if you never seek the Lord yourself. You know this.
- "You do not intend to cause grief to dear mother and father; but you do. As long as you are not saved, they can never rest. However obedient and sweet and kind you may be, they will never feel happy about you until you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and so find everlasting salvation.

- "Think of this. Remember how much you have already sinned, and none can wash you but Jesus. When you grow up, you may become very sinful, and none can change your nature and make you holy but the Lord Jesus, through His Spirit.
- "You need what father and mother seek for you, and you need it now. Why not seek it at once? I heard a father pray, 'Lord, save our children, and save them young.' It is never too soon to be safe; never too soon to be happy; never too soon to be holy; Jesus loves to receive the very young ones.
- "You cannot save yourself; but the great Lord Jesus can save you. Ask Him to do it. 'He that asks, receives.' Then trust in Jesus to save you. He can do it, for He died and rose again, that 'whosoever believes in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life.' Come and tell Jesus you have sinned; seek forgiveness; trust in Him for it, and be sure that you are saved."
- "Then imitate our Lord. Be at home as Jesus was at Nazareth; yours will be a happy home, and your dear father and mother will feel that the dearest wish of their hearts has been granted them."
- "I pray you to think of heaven and hell; for in one of those places you will live forever. Meet me in heaven! Meet me at once at the mercy-seat. Run upstairs, and pray to the great Father, through Jesus Christ. "Yours very lovingly, "

Now – if you haven't already - there's something for you to do!

### *lastly 3. Responding and reaping*

**which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** x2

It is something we all do – but actually something God does through his Word

The Bible causes you to first look back, to remember, and see what God has done, his great works through time. How he chose a man called Abraham and took him from his godless place and made promises to him to bless Him. How he and his descendants found themselves enslaved in Egypt. God had a great purpose and so when they cried out to God in their misery of slavery, God rescued them and brought them to himself and made them his. He cared for them and gave them the power to overcome their enemies.

Yet remember how all the way through when they failed again and again and sinned again and again - God had promised a Saviour.

Remember how Jesus Christ came, fully man and fully God, who unlike you and I walked in obedience to God's commands. He was obedient even to death and died cruelly at the hands of wicked men. But God raised him up

as promised and declared that now forgiveness of sins can be freely received if you will turn from your sins and come to Him. *Now there is hope for anybody and everybody.* All who cry out to be rescued from the slavery of sin can be freed. Christ will put his law in your heart and enable you to live a new good and pure life. You will see victory over those battles within you. And he will take you to himself on that day of death.

The Scriptures remind you of what God has done, they warn you against ignoring what God has done, for to do so means no salvation and only a fearful expectation of the judgment to come. All Scriptures point to Christ.

**So why are the scriptures so important? They speak of what God has done**

✚ **Why are the scriptures so important? They prepare you to respond**

The one who knows then is put in the right place to receive Christ, soft hearted, ready hearted, the heart is prepared, the mind is prepared, - for the gospel of Grace. These Scriptures are **able to make you wise for salvation** **able** – no guarantee, don't teach them and barring God's intervention you will stay lost. Do teach them and they **able** = more likely to, for God's word is **able to make you wise ....**

**make you wise** - The wise man or woman boy or girl makes the right choice, it gives you the right sight to see, it puts you in the right place to receive.

God's word is the great signpost to Christ - **In Christ Jesus** - The scriptures are pointers, pointers to Christ they aim at him, they say 'there' "He's the one God has given" – "He's the One you need".

You who are listening – Do you know what God says in the Bible? You do? What is God's purpose that you do - and not another? God's purpose is that you meet the one behind the ink. He is there, and He is seeking you to find Him now, and you do so **through faith.**

- Dr. Chalmers went to see a Scottish woman in her time of trouble about her sin. She was trying to 'get faith'. On his way to her house he had to cross a stream over which there was a thin plank. Looking out of her window, she saw he was afraid to venture across on it, and, coming out, she called to him, 'Jist lippen to it.' That was her way of advising him just to trust himself to the plank.

Salvation is **through faith.** Dr Chalmers used the illustration and her own words to explain to her how to trust in the Saviour. Trust in Christ alone to cross over, nothing else, no-one else. Yes He is there, and Yes He is seeking you to find Him now, right now. Make sure you do. \_\_\_\_\_END