

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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THE WORD OF GOD

Larry R. Ping II

Of all the words one will ever hear or read, the most important are the words of God. Notice the many different things the Bible has to say about the "Word of God."

1) The Word Of God Is Called Many Distinct Things. And often, the different names carry with them something of significance about the Word of God. The Word of God is said to be...

(a) *The Book* (Psa. 40:7; Rev. 22:19).

(b) *The Book of the Lord* (Isa. 34:16).

(c) *The Book of the Law* (Neh. 8:3; Gal. 3:10).

(d) *The Good Word of God* (Heb. 6:5).

(e) *The Holy Scriptures* (Rom. 1:2; II Tim. 3:15).

(f) *The Law of the Lord* (Psa. 1:2; Isa. 30:9).

(g) *The Oracles of God* (Rom. 3:2; I Pet. 4:11).

(h) *The Scriptures* (I Cor. 15:3).

(i) *The Scriptures of Truth* (Dan. 10:21).

(j) *The Sword of the Spirit* (Eph. 6:17).

(k) *The Word* (Jam. 1:21-23; I Pet. 2:2).

(l) *The Word of God* (Lk. 11:28; Heb. 4:12).

(m) *The Word of Christ* (Col. 3:16).

(n) *The Word of Life* (Php. 2:16).

(o) *The Word of Truth* (II Tim. 2:15; Jam. 1:18).

2) The Word Of God Is Likened To Seed. When explaining the "Parable of the Sower," Jesus said, "*The seed is the word of God*" (Lk. 8:11). It is this seed which fell upon the "*good ground*" and in an "*honest and good heart*" which brought "*forth fruit*" (Lk. 8:15). Peter amplified this teaching when penning, "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever*" (I Pet. 1:23).

3) The Word Of God Is Compared To A Two-Edged Sword. The Hebrew writer authored, "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder*

of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). The Word of God is alive (I Pet. 2:4-5), compelling (Rom. 1:16) and able to pierce a man's heart (Acts 2:37).

4) The Word Of God Is To Be Read Publicly. This happened often in God's Word. Moses instructed the Law to be read "*before all Israel in their hearing*" (Dte. 31:11). II Kings 23:2 reports, "*the king (Josiah) went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord.*" Ezra rose upon a "*pulpit of wood*" to read to God's people from the Book (Neh. 8:1-8). Jeremiah told Baruch to "*read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the Lord in the ears of the people in the Lord's house*" (Jer. 36:6). (cont.)

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5) The Word Of God Should Be Expounded. To “expound” is to “expose and explain.” This is what Ezra did as shown in Neh. 8:8, “*So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.*” Jesus expounded to the Jews in Nazareth in Lk. 4:16-27. Near the end of His earthly sojourn, it is said of Jesus, “*And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself*” (Lk. 24:27).

6) The Word Of God Is To Be Searched. The Bereans were complimented for this very reason. Luke writes, “*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so*” (Acts 17:11). Jesus encouraged His listeners to “*Search the scriptures*” (Jn. 5:39). Timothy was taught, “*Study to shew thyself*

approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).

7) The Word Of God Is Not To Be Tampered With. It is perfectly fine as written. It does not, now, or ever, need any man’s upgrades or updates. Moses warned, “*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you*” (Dte. 4:2). Later he added, “*What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it*” (Dte. 12:32). The last warning of the last book states, “*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book*” (Rev. 22:18-19).

8) The Word Of God Convicts Men Of Sin. It convicted Josiah and his kingdom of their wrongdoing (II Kings 22:9-13). Men are baptized for the washing away of sin (Acts 22:16) as a result of the Word convicting their heart (I Pet. 3:21).

9) The Word Of God Will Be The Standard On The Day Of Judgment. The Lord uttered, “*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day*” (Jn. 12:48). The apostle wrote, “*In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel*” (Rom. 2:16).

Now it comes to us. May we have a healthy and continual respect for the Word of God It deserves. May we be busy planting and watering the Seed (I Cor. 3:6). May we read It and let Its power work. May we take the time to explain It to others who are lost in sin. May we search out Its countless treasures. May we take It for what it says. What say ye?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm