

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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FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS...

Larry R. Ping II

The Hebrew author penned “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). Consider an itemization of this beautiful and important passage. The Word of God is...

1) Quick. The idea here is God’s Word is living, active and effective. In fact, it is as effective today as it was when pen was put to paper. Some argue the words in the Bible are so “old,” what the Bible teaches and commands is no longer valid or relevant. Not so! God’s Word is still a “lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psa. 119:105). The Lord’s Word is still a “fire” and a “hammer” (Jer. 23:29), purifying all who come to know and obey it. It must be in our “heart as a burning fire” ready to be spread (Jer. 20:9). “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel” (I Cor. 9:16)!

2) Powerful. Paul expressed this in his epistle to the Romans when saying “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). God’s Word is so potent, man is instructed to “receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). God’s Word is so valuable the wise man ordered “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Prov. 23:23). Have you invested in God’s Word?

3) Sharper Than Any Twoedged Sword. This kind of sword is comprised of only the very best and fine material. None better can be found. Such is true of God’s Word as well. This is why Paul told Timothy to be “nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine” (I Tim. 4:16). Too many today (some in God’s family) hunger and thirst after man’s words rather than “righteousness” (Matt. 5:6). Don’t eat junk food! Feast upon the word of God.

4) Piercing. If taught as is, the word of God will penetrate even the hardest of hearts. It did so to a sorcerer (Acts 8:13). It did so to a persecutor, blasphemer and an injurer (I Tim. 1:13). It caused “about three thousand” on Pentecost to be “pricked in their heart” (Acts 2:37-41). Souls are far too precious and valuable, and time is too short and fleeting to waste time with watered-down preaching which does not pierce man’s heart. Let God’s Word do its job.

5) A Discerner. It acts as a measuring stick. It is the standard by which our thoughts and actions are regulated. Those who understand this ask questions like “what saith the scripture” (Rom. 4:3)? Those who appreciate this “speak as the oracles of God” (I Pet. 4:11). The Lord Himself iterated “the word I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (Jn. 12:48). How acquainted with the Word of God are you?

THEY FLY AWAY AS AN EAGLE

Larry R. Ping II

A man from New Chicago, Indiana, after concluding his ATM transaction was surprised to find his bank account balance standing at \$8,200,000. A bank error in allocating a stimulus payment rendered him a millionaire. Of course, the mistake was quickly corrected. The man was quoted as saying “You go from being a millionaire one second then back to being broke again.”

This story brought to mind Prov. 23:5, “Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.” The Bible has much to say about riches. Consider these.

1) Riches Have No Spiritual Redemptive Value. “They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him” (Psa. 49:6-7). “We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins” (Eph. 1:7).

No amount of money will ever have the ability to purchase removal of sin or a home in Heaven. This is why Solomon wrote “Riches profit not in the day of wrath; but righteousness delivereth from death” (Prov. 11:4).

2) Riches Are Not A Source Of Trust. The Psalmist penned of a “man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in wickedness” (Psa. 52:7). “Blessed are all they that put their trust in him” (Psa. 2:12). Many put their faith and confidence in money. However, Paul instructed “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (I Tim. 6:17). Heed the warning “He that trusteth in riches shall fall” (Prov. 11:28).

3) Riches Are Not As Nearly Important As A Good Name. “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches” (Prov. 22:1). The most

important name we carry is that of Christian (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; I Pet. 4:16). This name suggests we are followers or disciples of Christ. We carry his name carefully, understanding others need to see “Christ liveth in me” (Gal. 2:20). Do not drag the Lord’s name through the mud!

4) Riches Bring Not Satisfaction. So many look for happiness and joy in money, but it cannot be found there. The preacher said, “there is one...neither is his eye satisfied with riches” (Eccl. 4:8). Some seem to think an over-flowing bank account will bring gratification, but in truth riches corrupt (James 5:2) and cause most to err “from the faith” and pierce themselves “with many sorrows” (I Tim. 6:10). “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it” (I Pet. 3:10-11). God, His Word and obedience to them brings true joy (Acts 8:39).

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288
Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com
Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY
Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study – 7:00 pm