



Northland Reformed

Monthly

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The Life-Changing Power of God’s Word – Part 3 – “Teaching”

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables.” (2 Timothy 4:2-4).

Paul warned Timothy of a future time in which people will not “endure sound doctrine” but will “have itching ears” which they will “turn away from the truth.” We see this happening today in many churches where objective, factual truth has fallen on hard times. Many professing Christians are less interested in knowing and growing in the knowledge of Christ (which God tells us to do in 2 Peter 3:18) and more interested in growing in self-esteem (which is never given as a goal in Scripture). And the “church” in many places has given in to the pressure of these modern sensibilities. Church services are now judged more on how a person “feels” after attending a worship service (that music was really uplifting, that sermon really encouraged me to be my best) rather than how much a person has grown in knowledge of, love for, and obedience to Christ.



Much of this comes from a modern, mistaken view of the heart. Perhaps you have heard it said that “what we need is more heart knowledge and not just head knowledge.” This line of reasoning, which assumes that the head (mind) is separate from the heart (emotions), is decidedly unbiblical. In Scripture the heart is the whole person; our mind, conscience, will, and emotions. God speaks to our mind, and in doing so informs our conscience, directs our will, and affects our emotions. God always addresses us as whole persons. In other words, Christianity is a rational

religion. God never bypasses the mind in Christianity. Bypassing the mind and influencing the conscience, will, and emotions, apart from objective truth is the way of all false religions, but never Christianity.

Teaching, therefore, is the starting place for all Christian growth. We must know what to believe before we are able to begin to live according to that belief. Over and over in Scripture the fool is represented as one who despises wisdom (Proverbs 1:7), hates knowledge (Proverbs 1:22) and speaks a lie to himself, saying in his heart that there is no God (Psalm 14:1). We must not become foolish, but instead become wise unto salvation through the wisdom taught in God's Word. This is why the apostles in the New Testament placed such a great emphasis on the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. This is why the Reformers of the sixteenth century placed such a great emphasis upon the translation and distribution of the Bible into the native languages of the people. This is why we, in the Reformed Church, place such a great emphasis on preaching. We must be "people of the Book," that is, students of the Scripture.

Whenever we eat physical food, we must put it in our mouth, chew it and swallow it. Only then will the nutrition our body needs be delivered to our muscles and bones, causing growth. The same is true of our spiritual food, God's Word. If we do not take it in (not by our mouth, but by our ears and eyes), chew on it (not with our teeth but with our thoughts), and digest it (not by our stomach but by applying it to our conscience, will, and emotions) we will never grow into spiritually healthy people.

How then are we to learn God's Word? Allow me to suggest a four-pronged approach to profit from the teaching of God's Word. First, be in a faithful, Bible-believing and Bible-preaching church. The primary way God intends for his people to learn is through the preaching ministry of the church, which is the pillar of the truth. Second, set aside time to learn with other believers in a smaller setting, such as a Bible study group or other meeting outside the weekly worship services. Third, spend time with your immediate family in Bible reading and prayer. Finally, be sure to spend time in personal study of the Bible, applying it to your daily life.

God has commanded us to learn from him by his Word. To that end he has providentially provided us with his Word in our own language, given us teachers of his Word, and promised to accompany his Word with power by his Spirit. All that remains is for us to get busy using the means he has provided.

Rev. Christopher Campbell

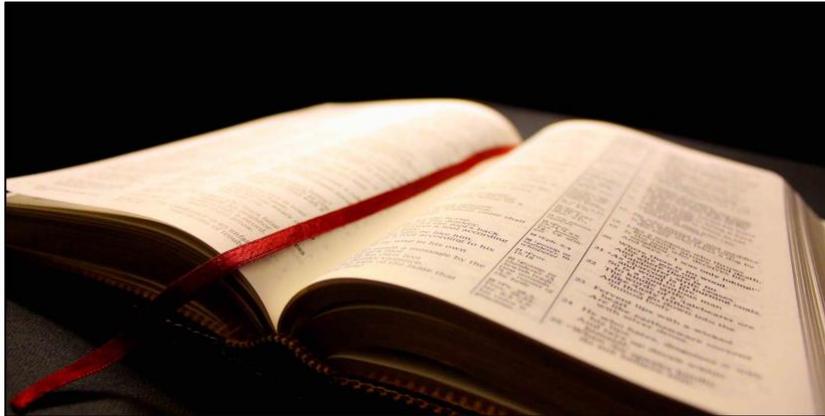
November Schedule

REGULAR MEETINGS

- Sunday Worship | November 4, 11, 18, 25 | 9:30AM & 5:00PM
- Men's Morning Fellowship @ Cracker Barrell Tiffany Springs | November 17 | 7:00AM
- Friday Night Fellowship | November 9, 30 | 6:30PM | We will meet for a meal and lesson

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Lord's Supper & Fellowship Meal | November 11 | During the morning service we will observe the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. After the service we will gather for a fellowship meal.
- Thanksgiving Eve Service | November 21 | 7PM



Scripture Memorization

“Your word I have hidden in my heart,
That I might not sin against You.” – Psalm 119:11

November 4	Romans 5:18-19
November 11	John 5:39-40
November 18	1 Peter 2:9-10
November 25	Romans 10:17