

Message Three

THE BIBLE—GOD’S WRITTEN WORD

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 3:15-17; John 5:39; Heb. 1:1-2; Eph. 6:17-18; Col. 3:16

I. **Christ, the living Word, needs a written word; without the written word, we are not able to apprehend the living Word—Luke 24:27, 44-45; John 5:39:**

- A. The Bible, composed of the Old Testament and the New Testament, is the complete, written divine revelation of God to man.
- B. The word, which is solid and concrete, is the embodiment of the mysterious and abstract Christ; through the word, Christ has been made solid and tangible—John 6:63; 1 Cor. 15:45b.
- C. In the Old Testament, God spoke in the prophets, in men borne by the Holy Spirit—2 Pet. 1:21:
 - 1. The Old Testament gives a portrait, in types and prophecies, of the wonderful Christ as the coming One—Isa. 9:6; 2 Sam. 7:12-14.
 - 2. In the Old Testament the law was the testimony of God, the revelation of who God is to His people—Exo. 31:18; Psa. 19:7:
 - a. A law is always a revelation of what kind of person has enacted that law.
 - b. As the word of God and the testimony of God, the law is a type of Christ as God’s Word and God’s testimony, God’s expression—John 1:1, 18; Rev. 19:13.
- D. In the New Testament, God speaks in the Son—Heb. 1:1-2:
 - 1. First, God spoke in the Son as a man in the four Gospels—vv. 1-3; John 14:10; 5:24.
 - 2. Then He spoke in the Son as the Spirit through the apostles in Acts through Revelation—16:12-15; 2 Pet. 3:15-16.
 - 3. The New Testament is focused on a person who is the Son of God—Matt. 1:1; Rev. 22:21.

II. **We need to allow the Word of God to dwell in us richly by reading, praying, and singing the Word— Col. 3:16; Eph. 6:17-18; Matt. 4:4:**

- A. Reading the Bible is a life necessity—Matt. 4:4; 1 Pet. 2:2:
 - 1. Some may think that we can read the Bible only when the Spirit inspires us; however, no healthy person eats food only when he is inspired; reading the Bible is no different from eating physical food, for both are life necessities.
 - 2. We need to daily touch and receive a portion of the Bible regularly and even “legally.”
 - 3. We should read through the Bible consecutively, not according to our preference or randomly.
- B. We can breathe in the word by exercising our spirit to pray-read the word; if we want to receive the Lord’s words, we must use our spirit, because His words are spirit—Eph. 6:17-18; John 6:63.
- C. There is no better way to receive the Word into our being than by singing the Word; the more we sing and psalm the word of God, the more it will sink into the depths of our being and saturate us—Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:18-19:
 - 1. The highest way to enjoy reading the Bible is to sing the words with a spontaneous melody.
 - 2. Singing the Word is an excellent way to exercise the spirit; to pray is to exercise the spirit, but to sing is an especially good way to exercise the spirit.

Focus: *Christ as God’s living Word is defined and embodied in the Bible as God’s written word; hence, every day we need to exercise our spirit to read, pray, and sing the word in order to take it into our being for our spiritual nourishment.*