

The Transforming Power of Scripture Memory!

Benefits and Encouragement

13th Sunday after Pentecost / 12th Sunday after Trinity – 2012

Sunday, August 25 → 8:00 & 10:45 ♦ Monday, August 26 → 7:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, now that we ♦ know that the Bible is God’s Word AND ♦ benefit from it every day through Daily Devotion, LET US ALSO *write key Scripture verses on our hearts by memorizing them!*

1. **Some Great Benefits:**

a. **Transformation:** ^{NAS} **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. //

- i. The sinful world, it’s trying to fill our minds with anything other than God’s Holy Word (see the movie “Captivated” for more information).
- ii. Some of you may remember the old computer phrase: **Garbage in, garbage out.**¹ When you put in wrong information, *you will get out wrong information.* That also describes the work of the devil, the

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garbage_in,_garbage_out

sinful world, and our sinful natures: Put garbage in, *so that garbage comes out!*

- iii. Instead, let us put in God's POWERFUL Word; then reap God's GREAT blessings!

b. Guidance:

- i. ^{NAS} **Psalm 119:9** How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.... ¹¹ Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee. // An excellent way to *treasure* key verses is to *memorize* them; then they will always be with us – *to bless us and others through us!*

- ii. ^{ESV} **Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. //

1. Imagine being ☹️in the woods, ☹️after dark, ☹️by yourself, ☹️without a cell phone, ☹️near a cliff, 😊with only a flashlight! What would you do? ***It's obvious!*** You would shine the flashlight toward your feet *to check your next step* AND you would shine the flashlight ahead *to make sure your path did not lead you over the cliff!*
2. Since life in this sinful world is full of great spiritual danger, *God has blessed us with His Holy Word – for Daily Devotion AND Scripture Memory, so that we have it with us in every circumstance!*

- c. **Christian Living:** ^{NAS} **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ that the man of God may be adequate [*complete, capable, proficient*], equipped for every good work. //
- i. Teaching – *learning for living*.
 - ii. Reproof – *express disapproval; stop*.
 - iii. Correction – *do it this way; begin*.
 - iv. Training in righteousness – *between now and heaven*.

2. **Some Real-Life Encouragement:**

- a. Dawson Troutman (1906-1956); he founded the Navigators – a Christian ministry (1933), *which helps people ♦ know Jesus Christ and ♦ live as disciples of Jesus Christ!* A 12 minute audio clip of Dawson Troutman explaining God’s use of Scripture Memory in his life...
- b. Your pastor and Scripture Memory in his life:
 - i. ^{NAS} **Romans 5:6** For while we were still **helpless**, at the right time Christ died for the **ungodly**. // But I thought: *I’m not helpless!* I go to church, work hard, try to be good, etc. Then the Holy Spirit brought this Bible verse to mind:
 - ii. ^{NAS} **Matthew 5:48** “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” // Then, by God’s grace, power, and blessing, *He showed me how I was*

helpless! Good is NOT good enough; *no one's goodness can earn that person a place in heaven.* The Bible says: ^{NAS} **Romans 3:10** as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one..."

- iii. Then, *immediately upon showing me my helplessness to save myself*, God – *by the Spirit through the Word* – gave me **again** the gift of faith to trust in Jesus (the first time was in my baptism into Christ)! The Bible says: ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- c. Some food for thought: ♦The apostle Paul (a Pharisee), ♦Martin Luther (monk; then priest), ♦Dawson Troutman (heard earlier), ♦myself, and ♦probably many others – *when they were adults* – spent time in the Bible BEFORE **God** opened their eyes to →their own helplessness and →His gift of salvation through Jesus!

Conclusion: Now, →knowing Christ as our Savior – *the only way to heaven* – and →seeing the power of Scripture memory, let us do it and benefit now and forever! **Amen!**

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