

Saturday, December 31 Theme: God's Word — Read it, Value it, Share it

“And now, as to the present things, I commend you to the Lord and to the word of His grace which has power to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been set apart for God.” Acts 20:32 Wuest

Review

Opening Night - Note we are not commended to a human leader or an organization, but to God, and then to His word. We are to value “the Book.” It is perpetually inspiring, powerful, and living. Hebrews 4:12

Day 1— God-Breathed — 2 Timothy 3:16-17 — Ps 33:6
“cutting off ears”

Day 2 — Reproof, Correction, and Rebuke = a life that displays God's glory and tells others who He is. Isaiah 66:2 "the motto of the believer". Example: Peter as one who was reprov'd. We will learn lessons all of our life. No one "arrives".

Day 3 — **God's Word encourages, comforts, and gives hope**
Seems to contradict with yesterday's theme. What things do we turn to for encouragement, comfort, and hope?

The World

“you're not perfect”

“you'll never amount to anything”

“Have a nice day!”

“Great job!”

“just get over it”

God's Word

“For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.”
Psalm 139:13

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus...Ephesians 2:10

“I will never leave or forsake you”
Hebrews 13:5

“you are precious in my sight” Isaiah 43:4

“For You are my hope; O Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth.”
Psalm 71:5

“God helps those who help themselves.”

Other voices we chose...Music, movies, sports, political experts, entertainment culture.

For whatever things were written aforetime with a view to our learning were written, in order that through the patience and through the encouragement arising from the scriptures we might be having hope. Romans 15:4 Wuest

Remember the word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me. Psalm 119:49-50 NAS

...And stop assuming an outward expression that does not come from within you and is not representative of what you are in your inner being but is patterned after this age (*world*); but change your outward expression to one that comes from within and is representative of your inner being, by the renewing of your mind Romans 12:2 Wuest

Learning to find encouragement, comfort and hope in God's word

Examples

Conclusion

We instinctively know the worlds pattern...fairly easy to copy...what is God's way? Will this decision line up with God's Word? I wonder what God knows about that? What do I know about God that will help me with this situation?

Isaiah 5:20-24

Live by the Spirit...know what the spirits' word is. Knowing the doctrines we will be in contrast to the worlds thinking...known by our radical kindness, wisdom, comfort, encouragement and hope...our steadfastness versus being obnoxious.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

A few verses about Encouragement, Comfort, and Hope.

Effects of Encouragement - Isa 40:30-31 *See also* Ps 25:3; Ro 15:5; 1Co 14:3; 2Co 3:12; Php 2:1-2; Col 2:2; 1Th 2:11-12

The God of all comfort - 2 Cor. 1:3-7

When worried Isa 43:1-13; Mt 6:25-34; Php 4:4-7; 1Pe 5:7

When lonely Ps 73:23-24; Isa 41:10; 49:14-16; Jn 14:15-21

When tired or weary Isa 40:28-31; Mt 11:28-30; 2Co 4:16-18; Php 4:12-13

When discouraged Ps 34:18; 42:5; La 3:20-23; Ro 8:28-39¹

Hope reassures believers in their faith Heb 3:6 *See also* Eph 1:18-19; Heb 7:18-22; 10:23

Hope encourages believers Ps 31:2 *See also* Isa 40:31; 49:23; Ro 5:3-5

Hope encourages believers to rejoice Ro 12:12 *See also* Ro 5:1-2

Hope encourages believers to look for restoration Ps 37:9; Jer 14:8; 31:17; La 3:29-31; Hos 2:15; Zec 9:12

Hope leads to more effective Christian living and witness

Hope encourages believers to be bold 2Co 3:12

Hope encourages believers to evangelise *See also* 1Pe 3:15

Hope leads to godly living Ps 25:21; Heb 6:10-12; 1Jn 3:2

Hope equips believers for spiritual warfare 1Th 5:8

Hope enables believers to face suffering with confidence Ro 5:3-5 *See also* Ps 22:24; 147:11; Php 1:20

Hope enables believers to face the future with confidence

Hope assures believers of an eternal dimension to life 1Co 15:19

Hope enables believers to face death with confidence Ps 16:9-10 *See also* Job 19:25-27; Ps 33:18; 1Co 6:14; 2Co 4:10-14; Php 1:3-6; Rev 1:17-18

Hope assures believers of their eternal life Ac 2:26-27; Ro 8:23-25; Tit 1:1-2; 3:7; 1Pe 1:3

Hope enables believers to face the coming wrath with confidence 1Th 1:10

¹ Manser, M. H. (1999). *Zondervan Dictionary of Bible Themes. The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.