



26 June 2026

God's Wonderful Word

We know that God's Word is wonderful.

Many of us can recite Psalm 119 verse 105,

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Later in that Psalm the writer testifies,

“The unfolding of Your words gives light.”

Psalms 19 and 119 celebrate God's Word. Psalm 19 tells us

that God's word is perfect, sure, right, pure, everlasting, true, righteous and desirable. His word restores the soul, makes the simple wise and brings joy to the heart.

We recall God's word to Joshua as he took over leading Israel after Moses,

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will achieve success.”

Joshua 1:8

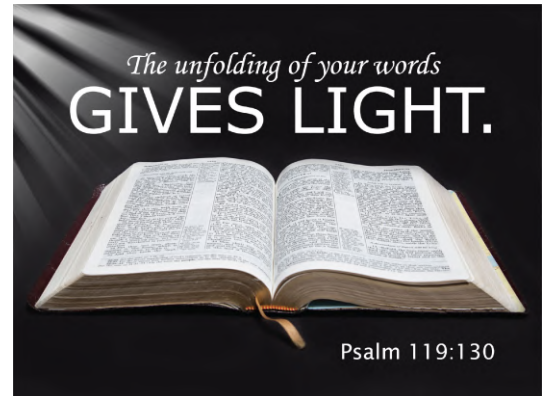
We may have memorized Paul's words in 2 Timothy chapter 3,

“All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work” (16-17).

If you think there is a *But* coming, there is.

For decades observation and studies have shown that Bible reading has been declining, not only in the population as a whole, nor even among those who identify as Christians, but also among evangelical Christians.

Almost forty years ago one well known pastor and writer commented, “I shudder to think that we may be moving toward a point where there are just a few strong communicators who are studying the Bible for us all.” Another described what he saw, “people attending conferences and sermons, going home with drawers filled with notebooks on how to live the Christian life, yet struggling to



actually live it out.”

There is some good news for the future. The sale of Bibles has increased notably in the last few years, and at least one 2025 study showed a seemingly significant upward trend in Bible engagement.

But there is cause for serious concern. The concerns that just a few strong communicators are studying the Bible for us all, and that people listen to sermons, even taking copious notes, but struggle to live it out are very real.

Radio, television and the internet offer us more opportunities to take in God’s word beyond our local churches. Some Christians have a favorite preacher or teacher they follow. Others spend many hours searching for interesting teaching. And a few fall into what Paul described,

“wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

It goes without saying that some of the resources we have readily available to us today for hearing God’s word are very valuable.

Question: how much time do you spend reading the Bible and doing your own study in comparison to taking in what others have to say? Think about that.

The Bereans in Acts chapter 17 “received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (11). They had the privilege of hearing God’s truth from Paul! They were ordinary people as we are. But in addition to listening to Paul, they did their own, ongoing, daily study of the Scriptures. I sometimes think they may have been following the direction of Psalm 1, delighting in the Law of the LORD, and meditating on it day and night, that is, consistently.

God has given you the Holy Spirit, “the Spirit of truth”, to guide you into all the truth (John 16:13), and, as Jesus also said, “He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you” (John 14:26).

So, again, how much time do you spend reading the Bible and doing your own study in comparison to taking in what others have to say? Pick up, or keep up the challenge of consistently reading, thinking about, studying God’s word.

Pastor Lyle