

16.7.23 pm

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Date: 16 July 2023

Preacher: Wilf Urquhart

[0 : 00] Good evening to you all. It's lovely to see you. I've had a unique experience this evening. I have been prayed for in Gaelic. I understood nothing, but I understood that though there were two of us there, there was a third person as well. I'll leave you to work out who that third person was. Intimations as regards these envelopes, you may have seen them on the way in. This is concerning the Bidderford Bible for a quarter of a million people. It is completed, but it needs to be printed and published. So could you please pray for it? You'll see them on the table beside the offering basket. If you want to take one of them, please take it away. Because the more you take away, the less I have to take away. So please help yourselves. I'm not aware of any other intimations, but we're going to begin our service by singing singing to God's praise in Gaelic from Psalm 146. The first two verses. Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord as long as I live, and I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. That may be a slightly different translation to what you have there. We'll sing to God's praise. Psalm 146, verses 1 and 2, and then Donald McSween, wherever Donald McSween is, yes, you will lead us in prayer in Gaelic. Thank you.

Pets from India to question myself, please drop bias in progress. I am Mr. Vander Préfice ob verbess ■■■weit, commenting on the emotions. I have the beginning.

I think decision. A firm encourager will receive■■■ to the sameChildren and Shield descend. If I believe to take the■ and cordial gain, we give the constraint of the ■■■ become Thank you.

Thank you.

[3 : 22] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[5 : 52] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[8 : 22] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[10 : 52] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[13 : 22] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[15 : 52] Thank you.

Thank you.

Amen.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[18 : 22] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

And I will.

Thank you.

[20 : 52] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[23 : 21] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[25 : 51] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[28 : 21] Thank you.

Thank you.

Amen. Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[31 : 51] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[34 : 21] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[36 : 51] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

And I always.

Thank you.

[39 : 21] Thank you.

I've got you.

It's 11 o'clock.

God's word.

des■■ Duke.

[41 : 51] Different people. Because God's word shows us the way to go. But you see, I sometimes read God's word.

In fact, I often read God's word and ten minutes later, I've forgotten what I've read. Maybe you're not in that category. Well, I am.

And I have been for a long time. And I got quite discouraged about it. Until I realized something. In every Roman's kitchen, there is a piece of equipment.

Now you'll never guess what I'm going to tell you. There is this little piece of equipment. You've all got it in your kitchen. It's called a sift.

A sift. Do you know what a sift's for? Of course you know what a sift's for. You put, for instance, rice in the sift.

[42 : 58] And then you put it under the tub. And that cleans away any impurities that there are in the rice. But where is the water gone?

It's gone through the sift. It's fallen through the sift. There is no water left. But you know what also happens to the sift?

The water running through it cleans it. And as we read God's word, God's word has a cleansing effect on our lives.

It makes us clean. Now you are clean, Paul. Through the word which I have spoken unto you. Cleansed by God's word.

A sift. Don't get discouraged if you forget what you've read. Because there will always be something that will stick and remain with you throughout the course of the day.

[44 : 14] God's word is the truth. We know that because thy word is truth.

And when we read God's word, we are reading what God wants to say to us. What truth God wants us to understand or to take on board.

God's word is the truth. Scripture is our touchstone. Scripture is our foundation.

We build our lives on the word of God. Not on the word of man. Not on the word of the best preacher in the world. But on God's word.

Because if you build your life on God's word, you are building your life on the most solid foundation that is known. But for all of this, we need to read God's word for ourselves.

[45 : 26] Do I do that? Am I a student of God's word? Do I read it day by day? If I don't, I should.

Because God's word is God's voice speaking to us. We would never consider eating one meal a week.

Would we? Not at all. Because if we were to eat on Monday, one copious meal, and then not eat anything more until the following Monday, how would you feel?

How would you be feeling that following Monday? I would suspect that you might be in hospital. Or if not, you might be confined to your bed because you are so weak and so listless.

You have no strength. What? Because you're not reading God's word. God's word shows us the way to follow.

[46 : 39] As I said with the headlights of the car, they show you the way to go. Because we live in a dark world. And I'm afraid, I have to say, we are living in an ever-darkening world.

And many of the things that are passed in our laws, in our governments, are contrary to the word of God. And God's word is getting marginalized in society more and more and more.

My friends, don't marginalize God's word in your life. Give God's word priority. God's word is the truth.

God's word is our spiritual food. And we need to read it and study it and take it on board. 2 Timothy, as I mentioned a moment ago, all scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction in righteousness.

Why? That the child of God, I've changed that slightly, that the child of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

[47 : 59] God's word is for God's children. God's word is for you and God's word is for me. It is our spiritual food.

And we need to read and digest God's word daily. And please, give God's word priority. Don't ever tell me that you start too early in the morning to have time to read God's word.

I would suggest get up 10 minutes earlier and there you've redeemed 10 minutes and you can read God's word. There is always a way if there is an appetite for God's word.

You'll make time to read it. I know that because I've proved it over the last number of years in my Christian experience.

I came to know Christ in 1976 and I've been seeking to read and to study God's word every day.

[49 : 06] And the more I study, the more I realize that there is to study. And the more I understand, the more I realize, the more there is to understand. You will never exhaust God's word.

You may exhaust yourself, but you will not exhaust God's word because it is inexhaustible. Because it is God's word. God's word is our spiritual fruit.

Yes, God's word sets us free. God's word gives us liberty. God's word gives us strength.

You know what it's like when you're feeling really hungry and your wife puts a wonderful meal on the table in front of you and you eat it.

How do you feel afterwards? Hmm? Yes. Like I do. Rassasier, as the French say.

[50 : 11] You are restored. Your strength is renewed by physical food. It is exactly the same with God's word.

Our spirits require nourishment. And the nourishment comes from this blessed book. God's word speaks into our lives.

God's word gives us strength. Gives us understanding. Gives us enlightenment. enlightenment.

God's word sets us free.

It clarifies our thinking. It enables us to walk in his way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my pathway.

All of this God's word does for us. All of these different things. It speaks powerfully into our lives.

[51 : 13] God's word changes us. God's word cleanses us. God's word is truth. God's word is our spiritual food. God's word sets us free.

But if we don't read it, what does it do for us? Nothing. Nothing. Now I know that in speaking to a congregation like you are, I'm speaking to those who know what I'm saying, who understand perfectly what I'm saying, and who accept the fact that God's word is essential for each one of us. Give it priority in your life. If you haven't given it priority before, then I would suggest strongly that you give God's word priority in your life.

John 15 verse 3 tells us, Already you are clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Psalm 119 verse 9, How can a young man keep his way pure by guarding it according to your word?

God's word is so important. It is so fundamental. It is a foundation for our Christian lives. We have got to build on it.

[52 : 44] And we build on it as we study it, as we dig into it, and as we ask God to allow his word to dig into us.

That needs to happen. It's not just that I dig into God's word, but I allow God's word to dig into me, even when it tells me things that I don't like hearing, I don't like reading.

I need to accept what God says to me through his word. And to be able to do that, I must read God's word for myself.

That is all that I want to bring to you this evening. I know you know it. I know you've been living by it for years and years and years, but I suspect that there might be some who think that God's word is for Sunday.

Well, you're right, it is. But it's also for Monday, and Tuesday, and Wednesday, and Thursday, and Friday, and Saturday. God's word is for our whole lives, for the whole week, for our whole days.

[54 : 08] I don't know how long I have got left in this world. You don't know how long you've got left in this world. But let us make our lives count for God.

Let us not be like a signpost, that I once saw.

I was on a road, and I was more or less lost. And I saw a signpost coming up, and I thought, great, that signpost will show me the way.

But that signpost had been there for years. It had been blasted by the wind, the rain, the tempest. it was, it was, I was unable to read what was written on it, because the years and the weather had erased what was written on it.

my friends, study God's word, live by it, allow it to direct your footsteps, and take it on a daily basis, so that God's word becomes part and parcel of your life.

[55 : 26] Never neglect God's word. Let's pray. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Our Father, we thank you that you have given us this amazing treasure of your word. We thank you, Lord, that this is not the word or word of man, but this is the living, abiding word of God.

And Father, we thank you for it. we thank you that you've given it to us. Thank you that it's available to us in our homes.

