

"Tasting the Bread of Life"

The Ministry of the Word (pt. 3)

January 19, 2025

Deut 8:1-5 ¹ "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.

...Note the Insight on an anticipated "pattern" for man:

v. 1 ...God has given us a PURPOSE to Live Out ("live and multiply and go in and possess the land") ...Living in that Purpose INVOLVES God "Speaking/Revealing" ("command/Commandment") and us being "Careful to Do"

***Bible Genre Note:** This is How an Historical Narrative reveals/speaks to us. ...A "story" of real people who are revealing and teaching something to us.—God illustrating that He Has a PURPOSE for His People by putting that purpose in a "Plot of Land" called "The Promised Land".

v. 2 ...There is something to "REMEMBER" as I go to do Life!

v. 2, 5 ...There is an "underlying agenda" traveling with man in his life's journey, that will very much be part of our life experience: "testing you to know what was in your heart" (v. 2) ... "know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you." (v. 5) [not some rare O.T. Moment, but the Normal Pattern & Routine of Life—Heb. 12]

...What if I've Never Read Deut!??

1Pet 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

**...God's Plan for Our Days on Earth Includes "TESTING", "DISCIPLINE", and a "Knowing of Our HEARTS".
...and for THIS, we will Need "The Ministry of the Word"!!**

WHY... Has God Installed This "Heart Monitor Program" in Our Lives? ...Because He's

SEEKING WORSHIPERS! ...and Worship is Very Much about the Delights, Trusts, and Affections of the HEART!!

Mk 12:28-30 "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Ex 20:2-3 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

Deut 8:3 ..."that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." ...THIS is a divine explanation of **WHY!! –Why are there these moments of "Encountering NEED"** (Lack, hunger/thirst, emptiness) that sometimes can sit at the edge of Desperation, Concern, Questioning, Vulnerability??? ...**SO THAT My Heart Might Learn to LOOK TO & LIVE BY the Ministry of the Word!!**

...This passage is quoted by Jesus in his own day of "testing/temptation" in the wilderness

Matt 4:1-4 ¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

"You remember how our Divine Lord, who is our perfect Exemplar in all things, acted when He was in this situation? When He had fasted in the wilderness 40 days and 40 nights, He hungered and then the Evil One came to Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones be turned into bread." This was, in effect, saying, "Leave off trusting in Your Heavenly Father. He has evidently deserted You — He has left You in the wilderness among the wild beasts and though He feeds them, He has not fed You! He has left You to starve — therefore, help Yourself — exercise Your own power! ... At once this text flashed forth, as the Master drew it out, like a sword from its scabbard — "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." ...This answer of our Lord to the tempter teaches us that the sustenance of our life, although naturally and according to the ordinary appearance of things depends upon bread, yet really depends upon God!" **Charles Spurgeon**, "Living by the Word"

..So, where do I find this bread (today) ...and when I take a bite, what's it going to "taste like"??

The Bible is the Word of God

"Everything that exists is a finger that points to God's existence and glory. ...The created world is a surround-sound, Technicolor display of the existence and attributes of the one who created it all. ...But God in his infinite wisdom knew that the general revelation of creation, which confronts us with his existence and glory, could not impart to us the kind of knowledge of him, the necessary knowledge of ourselves, an understanding of the meaning and purpose of life, and an awareness of the disaster of sin and of the fallenness of the surrounding world that could rescue us from us, propel us to him for his saving grace, and provide us a plan for how we should then live as children of that same grace. And so he gave us the wonderful and amazing gift of his word." **Paul Tripp**, "Do You Believe", p. 33

2Pet 1:19-21 ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Jn 20:30-31 ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

***...It was God's Intention to Place the Ministry of the Word—IN A BOOK (The Bible)
...and It Would Contain All the Power, Revelation, Formation, Information, and
Transformational Impact that accompanies "The Ministry of the Word of God"!***

***So the Ministry of the Word has to do with the "Revelation/Speech/Words" that come out of
the Mouth of God ...and God is using This "Word Ministry" to ALIGN OUR HEARTS and Guide
us into His PURPOSE!***

Tasting the Flavors of the Ministry of the Word (the Bread of Life)

2 Tim 3:16-17 ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

...The CONTEXT of this verse: **v. 1-9** ...the difficulty and darkness of the Last Days; specifically the "truthless motivation & corruption of some" (v. 6-9)

...The CONTRAST (with these): **v. 10** ... "You however" - followed my TEACHING ...v. 14... "as for you, continue in what you have LEARNED"

...Then CLARITY on the Scripture/Word of God: **v. 15**... "sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ"

...These "writings" are 'sacred' (special, unusual) and have unique power & ability!!

...The AIM & ACTIVITY of the Word of God—It's FEEL & FLAVOR ...v. 16-17

- **TEACHING** ...didaskalia (Gk.) - instruction — doctrine, learning, teaching
...Teaching "informs" ...Teaching "enlightens" ...Teaching brings "understanding" ...it offers context
...it offers cross-connections ...it offers boundaries

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Eph 4:14 ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

1 Tim 4:6 ⁶ If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

- **REPROOF** ...elegmos (Gk.) - refuting of error, reproof

...The Ministry of the Word has a "Dialogue/Conversation" with our ideas & beliefs—and it's job is to "refute"—not to 'befriend' or 'tolerate' or 'get along with'

- **CORRECTION** ...epanorthōsis (Gk.) - a straightening up again, i.e. (figuratively) rectification (reformation): — correction [root word 'orthōsis' = a. This word first means 'upright,' 'standing.' b. It then means 'moving in a straight line.' c. A next sense is 'right,' 'correct,' 'true.' (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Abridged))

Our Reality ... "Fallen" = bent; out of shape; disoriented ... "Sin" = missing the mark; out of alignment; untrue

...Until we get to heaven, these conditions are part of our lives ...thus, we NEED and should VALUE being "CORRECTED"!!

- **TRAINING** ...paideia (Gk.) - tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction: — chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture; the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, ... in adults also cultivates the soul, esp. by correcting mistakes and curbing passions. (Olive Tree Enhanced Strong's Dictionary)

2Tim 4:2-4 “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”

[2Tim 3:17] The desired result is that the man of God be ἄριστος**, “‘capable, proficient’ = able to meet all demands” (BAGD). ... The sense of the passage is that scripture is given to enable any “person of God” to meet the demands that God places on that person and in particular to equip Timothy the Christian leader for the particular demands made on him (cf. 4:2). ... “the person of God” has been “equipped” by scripture “for every kind of good work.” (New International Greek Testament Commentary)

"...we might assume we know how to take in God's word: just read it. After all, that's what you do with a written text, right?

Mueller has one more clarifying word, and it might be his most important for us today: “not the simple reading of the word of God . . . but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts.” In other words, he feeds his soul on God's word through what he and many other great saints have called “meditation.” This meditation is a crucial aspect of the lesson, and for us, almost two centuries later, it increasingly has become a lost art.

... “meditation” clarifies what kind of reading he means: “The most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the word of God, and to meditation on it.” He then makes plain that meditation concerns the heart. Mere reading might fill the head, but meditation aims to comfort, encourage, warn, reprove, instruct, and feed the heart.

“Meditate on the word of God” includes “searching as it were into every verse, to get blessing out of it . . . for the sake of obtaining food for my own soul.” Having chewed on one bite and savored it, “I go on to the next words or verse, turning all, as I go on, into prayer for myself or others, as the word may lead to it, but still continuously keeping before me that food for my own soul is the object of my meditation.”

... “not the simple reading of the word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts.” **David Mathis**, (article: "First Up: Get Your Soul Happy in the Lord" from Desiring God)