

SACRED SPACES

WEEK 3: SCRIPTURE

DAY 1: READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:12-17

Paul believed scripture to be sacred, full of God's absolute truth, saturated by His living presence and crucial to helping us understand salvation through Christ Jesus and be ready, effective, purpose-driven vessels of God's good will. How do you view scripture? Do you regard scripture with the same faith, weight and importance as Paul or do you think of the Bible as a sterile reading plan, some sort of two-dimensional collection of rules, stories and relative half-truths? Paul says scripture is breathed out by God, profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. How have you seen the scriptures align with what Paul says in your own life?

DAY 2: READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

Paul tells us in very strong words to preach the truth of the gospel in every season. We are to reprove, rebuke and exhort with complete patience and teaching. Paul warned us of a time when bad teaching, warped truth and fickle audiences unwilling to tolerate hard truth would persist. We are living in these times. Regardless of your season or circumstance, what can you do to preach the gospel right now, to reprove, rebuke and exhort with patience and teaching? As you pray and are presented with opportunities to shine the sharp truth of the gospel into broken, warped places, choose to obey and speak; pray for the Holy Spirit to saturate your heart and mind and speak through you. He uses obedient servants.

DAY 3: READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-15

Let's regard scripture with reverence and a desire to obediently steward the truth for all people in every generation. As we go about our days and strive to obey the call of Christ, let's conscientiously preach only Christ to the lost, that every heart may hear only God's truth and see only the living, resurrected Jesus. Who is first in your life; do people see Jesus first or do they see you? Just like Paul encourages us, "We also believe, and we also speak." Let's keep the truth of the Bible and mission of Christ above every priority, personality, circumstance or quirk and faithfully proclaim His goodness among the world.

DAY 4: READ PSALM 1 & PSALM 19:7-11

Trees depend on water; without it, they die. Trees don't just decide to pick up their roots and stroll on over to the desert for a while because they had their fill of water for a while. No, they cling to their source of water as if their lives depend on it – because they do. The same is true for us with scripture. If we do not prioritize God's word for the living water it is, we will spiritually weaken ourselves to death. Do you prioritize God's word in your daily routine? How can you better immerse yourself in scripture daily? Be intentional; put it into practice today. There's no such thing as too much of God's word. Lap it up and see yourself refreshed by the Spirit of God.

DAY 5: READ ISAIAH 55

The word of the Lord does not return empty. While we may not always understand or recognize what God says or the ways in which He moves, He has assured us it will be for His glory, our good and the rescue of the world. No matter what you're struggling to understand, in the midst of dealing with or dreading to face, turn to Him. Immerse yourself in the word of God; He is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty and living water for the blooming refreshment of all creation. Taste and see He is good and trust His word, His will, His ways. Trust the Lord and pray for holy understanding. The Lord is always faithful.

DAY 6: READ 2 PETER 3

The Lord is coming back. While we busily work to see every name know salvation in Jesus, let's remember to ground ourselves in the truth of God's word. For millennia, people have manipulated God's word out of ignorance, malice and deception, but God's word is true and lasts forever. He's given us His word and His Spirit to discern what is true and of Him. There is no confusion in Christ Jesus. As we wait for Jesus' return, let's be diligent to saturate our hearts and minds with God's word, stamping out our sinful behaviors, striving for righteousness and eagerly growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It begins with a choice.