



Sermon Series: The Word of God, Sermon Title: The Purpose of God's Word, Date: October 24, 2010,

Scripture: Psalm 119: 33-40

Pastor Search Committee

What part of the Bible is your favorite part? He said the New Testament. What book of the New Testament? He said the book of Parables. They kind of looked at each other and said could you share a favorite passage from the book of Parables. He said sure:

Once upon a time a man went down to Jerusalem from Jericho and was robbed by thieves. They threw him in a ditch where thorns grew up and choked the man. He was helped by the Queen of Sheba; she gave him 30 pieces of silver and 100 changes of raiment. He got into her chariot and drove it furiously and as he was driving it his hair got caught in the branches of a tree and left him hanging there. He hung there many days and many nights and the ravens brought him food and water. One night while he was hanging there his wife Delilah came and cut off his hair and he fell upon stony ground. And it began to rain and it rained for 40 days and 40 nights and he hide himself in a cave. A man came to the cave and he asked him to come in and have supper with him. He said I can't for I have found treasure in my field. The man left the cave and carried the man's coat one mile. Soon after this he saw Queen Jezebel looking out a window in the palace. When she saw him she laughed at him. In her laughter she lost her balance and fell and she broke into many pieces and the fragments filled 12 baskets full. Now whose wife will she be in the Day of Judgment?

The search committee chairman said "well I know he's young but he sure knows his Bible"

The scary thing is some of you have just thought that was the best Bible story you've ever heard

We have to know the word before we ever know the Purpose of God's Word.

I want us to look at the 119 Psalm

It's the greatest word on the word in the entire Bible.

Hebrew Aleph Bet the Letter "He"

I want us this morning to look at the 8 things that David prays for and how he responds to them.

Read Psalm 119: 33-40

8 times David Prayed according to the Word of God and then he responded to it. It's not enough just to study the Word then do nothing about it-We must study the Word of God then we must respond to it we must obey it – if you want the Word of God to change your life you can't just know a bunch of facts. You can't just have a mind filled with Biblical truth- you must "Do" the Word of God.

The Purpose of the Word of God is not to entertain us or even to inspire us; the purpose of the Word of God is to change us.

God's Word has a divine purpose.

- He does not want us to stay where we are.
- He doesn't want us to stay the same.
- He wants to deliver us from where we were
- Transform us from who we are
- Conform us to the image of His son Jesus
- So He can take us where He wants us to be.

Telescope:

When you look through a telescope it brings everything closer, it brings the unknown closer so you can better understand it.

But if you don't look through it is not serving its purpose.

Here is where some of us are at with the Word of God. We have Bibles laying around everywhere, in our cars, work, coffee-table, but if you are only looking at the Word of God and not through it, it becomes only a dust magnet in your home and in your heart.

You will only be able to discover the purpose of the Word of God when you are able to look into the Word and search its depths and dig out its truths and apply them to your life.

That's what David is saying in this passage, he's saying "I don't want your word to just be a bunch of facts, I want your Word to Change my life."

What is the purpose of the Word of God? I found 13 purposes for the Word of God.

I know you are saying "We'll never beat the Methodist to lunch" but I promise will be quick.

Now remember the purpose of the Word of God is not to inspire us, it's not so we can have a bunch of Biblical facts, some people know all the Kings of Israel and their Queens but it has not changed their life.

Let me give you these 13 quickly.

#1: the Word of God Convicts me:

It convicts me of my sin, it convicts me of my need for a savior, I'm convinced that's why some people never read the Word of God because they know it will expose them of exactly who they are and they know that they cannot remain the same so they simply ignore it!

Romans 7:7 "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."

Listen men don't ignore this book because it contradicts itself they ignore this book because it contradicts them.

That's one of the purposes of God's word to show you and I how far we are from the Glory of God and that we are sinners destined for an eternity separated from God unless we have a savior.

#2 the Word of God Saves:

Romans 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek"

2 Timothy 3:15 – "and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Romans 10:17 – "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

The Word possesses the key to eternal life it contains the message of the cross it is only through the cross of Calvary, through the resurrection of Jesus that you or I will ever be saved.

#3 the Word of God Cleanses

Ephesians 5: 25-26 – "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."

John 17:17 – "Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth."

It's the Word of God that cleanses my life it convicts me of my sin then I come and humble myself before a savior that's revealed in this Bible and I get gloriously saved and

I get cleaned, cleansed before Him I start over brand new I am absolutely clean before God.

Wouldn't that be a wonderful thing? No past to live down, you can start over, everything erased so you can begin again – Clean!

I'm telling you the Word of God has the answer through Jesus Christ you can begin again; it's all in the book.

Psalm 119: 9 – “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.”

Psalm 119: 11 – “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”

#4 The Word of God changes:

It changes me from being self-centered and self-focused its all about me, me, and me. It changes me into thinking about others, about loving others.

1 Timothy 1:5 – “Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.”

God wants to change you through His word

You once had a temper-God will change you

You once were hard to get along with-God will change you

You once had a tobacco problem-God will change you

John – Sons of Thunder

Luke 9:54 – “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them”

John became the Apostle John and he wrote the greatest Epistle about the love of God – 1st John. What happened to John, God changed him! The living Word changed him.

Some of us need the Word to change us too!

#5 The Word of God Empowers us:

We can have power and victory over Satan. How did Jesus defeat Satan in the wilderness in Matthew 4? 3 times He quoted scripture from the book of Deuteronomy. Folks if Jesus Christ needed scripture to defeat Satan don't you think we do to?

We need the Word of God to overcome the onslaught of sin and temptation. The reason many of us don't overcome the temptations of Satan are because we don't daily get into the Word of God we become vulnerable to the attacks of Satan

1 John 2: 14 "I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one."

#6 the Word of God Strengthens

Oh what comfort we get from the Word of God

Romans 15:4 "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

When I'm down I can run to the Word of God.

When we think we can't go on anymore the Word of God strengthens us.

Psalm 119: 28 "My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word"

The Word of God can give us a spirit of joy and strength when the world is totally against us.

#7 the Word of God Guides

Just like He did to the Israelites in the wilderness with a cloud or fiery ball God guides us today.

We find wisdom in His word when we don't know which way to go.

Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

God gives us direction, hope, and wisdom through His Word.

#8 the Word of God Equips

Ephesians talks about the equipping of the saints, everything we need to do ministry is in this book. To be a better Pastor, Sunday School teacher, choir member, church member it's all here. It's our operations manual. The Word gives everything we need to walk in the Lord; everything we need to know how to live.

2 Timothy 3:17 in talking about scripture says "that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

#9 the Word of God Protects

There are principles in this book that are not only good for the soul but are also good for the body. I'm convinced if we ate like God told us to in the Old Testament we would be in a lot better health!

"We can't because we're from the South"

Listen God wants to protect us. And he's used His Word to communicate that to us.

Psalm 17:4 "Concerning the works of men, By the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer."

#10 the Word of God Prospers

If we follow the principles of the Word of God we will prosper.

Dave Ramsey story.

John 1:8 "This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

#11 the Word of God Heals

Not just for the soul but for the flesh also. Physical healing makes us whole again

Proverbs 4: 22 talking about God's Words "For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh."

Before we run to the CVS maybe we should run to the KJV

I'm not saying to forsake medical doctors, medicine, nurses; surgeons are all a gift from God.

But the Word of God can heal us mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and physically

Psalm 107:20 "He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions."

#12 the Word of God Revives

It will bring revival. It will bring spiritual awakening. America needs this; we need revival in our souls.

Nehemiah 9:3 "And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the Lord their God."

Can you imagine! ½ a day of reading and worshipping God. America needs this kind of revival.

True spiritual revival will not come until we get into His word, when we make it more about Him and not about us when we saturate our lives with the Word of God.

#13 the Word of God Assures

Only through this word can you know that you know that you know that you have eternal life.

Some people say "How can you know that Pastor? You can't know that until you die and stand before God"

How do I know? Because the Bible says so!

1 John 5:13 "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."

Know what? If I believe one thing I must believe it all

R.G. Lee Story (Pastor at Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, TN, SBC President)

Jesus never called any private disciples; He always called us to publically acknowledge Him.