

Recap of 3/8/20 (1 Thessalonians 2:13):

1. Paul gives thanks for the way the Thessalonians embraced the Word of God, recognizing its power and spiritual dynamic. The word unleashed the power of God into their lives and brought changes in their behavior, made them fruitful, and attracted persecution. "These people had an appetite for the Word of God, and that helped them to grow (Jer. 15:16; 1 Pet. 2:2). When they heard God's Word, they eagerly welcomed it and put it to work immediately." (Wiersbe)

2. The Word of God is unique among the great literature of the world. It has a spiritual dynamic no other work has. It is far more than the musings of human authors, rather it has dual authorship: human and divine (the Holy Spirit). Paul taught in 2 Timothy 3:16,17 that the Scripture was inspired by God (literally "God-breathed.") Peter taught that the human authors of Scripture (what he calls "prophecy" or prophetic writing) were not communicating their own thoughts but rather were "borne along" by the Holy Spirit to record God's thoughts (2 Peter 1:20,21).

3. -"The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts." (George Mueller)

-"Where people welcome God's Word into their lives, the power of God is at work." (Ewert)

-"Discernment requires daily training. That means daily time in bible study to learn what God's will tastes like, daily time in listening prayer to learn what God's voice sounds like, and daily time holding your heart open to God's Word by meditation on it." "You can't learn the spirit and specifics of the bible by just reading it occasionally; you have to be in it daily if you are to learn discernment.

Otherwise, someone will be able to quote a few verses in support of a doctrine or a course of action, and you will have no way of knowing if the person is misusing the verses or if Scripture contains a balancing passage somewhere else." (The Compact Guide to the Christian Life) (Italics mine)