

Recap of 4/5/20 (1 Thessalonians 2:13):

1. The Word is vital to the new birth and spiritual growth, 1 Peter 1:23-2:2. Peter tells us that we are born again by the Word of God and our new life is nourished by the Word of God. The Word of God is not perishable but permanent; it endures forever unlike the things of the earth. Believers should be eager for the Word. The Word helps us to deal with sin in our lives. Salvation is not the end but the beginning.

-“Only people and God’s Word are eternal. That’s all! Carefully evaluate your activities over the past week. What portion of your time and energies were devoted to either personally interacting with biblical truth or building that truth into the lives of others? What small (but significant) steps could you take over this coming week to move that percentage toward eternal priorities?” (Charles Swindoll)

2. The Word is vital to maturing in our Christian walk, Hebrews 5:11-6:3. The writer of Hebrews challenged these believers who had been saved for a long time to move from milk to meat in their diet of the Word of God. They were stuck in the elementary things (the ABC’s of faith). They should have been benefiting others by their instruction instead they needed instruction themselves in the basics. If we don’t move forward in our Christian life we will go backward. We do not remain static or stagnant. Because of that they were lacking spiritual and moral discernment. They needed to move on to maturity, not just knowing more but applying what they knew.

3. The Word is vital to living skillfully, Proverbs 2:1-6. Biblical wisdom is not just knowledge...theoretical, it is the ability to apply God’s Word to life’s challenges. It is not just knowledge but the right application of knowledge. Wisdom is as valuable as silver and gold.

-“The opposite of foolish in Scripture is wise. Wise refers to skill in living. It does not mean, primarily, the person who knows the right answers to things, but one who has developed the right responses (relationships) to persons, to God. The wise understand how the world works; know about patience and love, listening and grace, adoration and beauty; know that other people are awesome creatures to be respected and befriended, especially the ones that I cannot get anything out of; know that the earth is a marvelously intricate gift to be cared for and enjoyed; know that God is an ever-present center, a never-diminishing reality, an all-encompassing love;...” (Peterson)

-“The wise person is sensitive to God, submits to Him, and applies God’s guidelines when making daily choices.” (Richards)