

Recap of 4/19/20 (1 Thessalonians 2:13):

1. "How we view the bible is crucial because it holds the key to knowing for certain that God exists. And how can we know about Him, if He does exist? Clearly, our finite minds cannot penetrate God's infinity. Job's friends asked him, 'Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?' (Job 11:7) The answers come with a resounding 'yes'—through God's self-revelation, the Bible. Today, our need for the Bible, God's Word, is more important than ever. Our world is bombarded with ideas, however well-intentioned, that challenge the time-honored concepts of the God of the bible....Relativism has taken over, disavowing all possibility of one truth source; postmodernism has arrived, bringing its elastic morality; secularism joins in exalting existential experience." Paul E. Little)
2. The Word is vital to equipping us for good works, Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Timothy 3:16,17. Though we are not saved by good works, God expects and equips us by His Word to serve Him as a result of salvation, good works that follow salvation. God's Word equips us to fulfil our God-given purpose. -"God has prepared a style of life to which we as His creatures are ideally adapted. We were made to hunction best and to be happiest when we live according to the way in which God originally created us to live." (Ewert)
3. The Word is vital to intimately knowing Christ, John 5:39-40; Luke 24:25-27. You can know the Scripture and miss Christ (because, as Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, spiritual things are spiritually discerned, combining spiritual truth with spiritual people) but you cannot know Christ intimately without knowing the Scripture. Jesus can be found in the pages of both the Old and New Testaments. Peter writes in 2 Peter 1:3,4 that intimate knowledge of Jesus Christ is the source of spiritual power and growth, of spiritual vitality and godly living.
4. The Word is vital to spiritual warfare, to success over temptation; Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:10-18. In Jesus' victory over Satan and temptation, He didn't use miraculous or extraordinary means but rather defeated Satan with the same resources that are available to us, the Word of God. The only offensive weapon in Christian's armor as laid out by Paul in Ephesians 6 is the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. -"Satanic deception is rampant today and has infected the church. And the only weapon that defeats the deceivers is God's inspired Word." (Wiersbe)
-the greatest weapon Satan has is untaught believers.