

Recap of 4/26/20 (1 Thessalonians 2:13):

1. The Word is vital to true worship, John 4:19-24; Acts 17:23. In His conversation with the “woman at the well” in John 4, Jesus said in vs. 23: “...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.” To paraphrase a well-known author: “sincerity without truth is useless.” Worship is built on and arises out of truth. Paul spoke in Athens of the futility of worshipping an unknown god (Acts 17:23). The pattern of many New Testament books is doctrinal sections (truth) followed by a doxology (worship) (Romans 11:33-12:12:2; Ephesians 1:1-3:21). We can sing, pray, have an emotional experience but without the Word we do not have worship.

—“The more we know about God—the better we can worship Him. where our knowledge is limited, our worship will be impoverished, or embellished! We will seek to manufacture worship, rather than experience it. The weaker the revelation, the stronger the ritual. Hence, the priority of preaching and teaching!” (Dr. Grant Howard)

2. The Word is vital to answering false doctrine and false teachers. It is essential to the doctrinal purity of the church and church leaders are called to know, teach, and guard the truth, 1 Timothy 4:1-6, 11-16; 2 Timothy 1:13,14; 4:1-4; Titus 1:9,10.

3. The Word is vital to personal and corporate purity, Jude 3,4; Proverbs 53:1; 14:1; 29:18; Psalm 119:9-11. Doctrine determines lifestyle. Doctrinal deviation precedes practical deviation from a godly lifestyle. Psalm 53:1 is a prime illustration. “The fool says in his heart, “There is no God” (doctrine). They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;...” (conduct).

4. The Word is vital to proper relationships both in and out of the Body, John 13:34-35; Matthew 22:34-40. The New Testament phrase “one-another” is illustrative of this truth.

—“The phrase ‘one another’ is derived from the Greek word **allelon** which means ‘one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally.’ It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to **allelon**, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others.” (author unknown)