

25 October 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Let the Word of God dwell in you richly

Psalm 119 – the longest psalm; the Theme: the Word of God.

All 176 verses mention God's Word with the exception of two. (There are 22 stanzas corresponding to the letters of the Hebrew alphabet: each stanza 8 verses long, all beginning with the same letter.)

Focus on Psalm 119:9-16 – read it reflectively. The key to knowing God is delighting in His Word; by the presence of His Holy Spirit, God reveals Himself to us in His Word.

How should we use God's Word?

- it is to be read and meditated on (v.15, 16). Meditation is holy thinking, dwelling on and applying to yourself the purposes and promises of God.
- it is to be memorised and stored in our mind and heart (v.11) so that it guides our decision-making and governs our affections, shaping our loves, hopes, and actions. (Remember learning a verse each week in Sunday School?)
- it is to be treasured for it contains priceless riches (v.14). (“We present you with this Bible the most valuable thing that this world affords” – The Coronation Service.)

Jesus, in His darkest hours of temptation and suffering, had the words of Scripture on His lips – His mind was saturated with the Word of God. “Let the Word of Christ dwell in your richly” (Colossians 3:16).

- Read it, meditate on it; memorise it, treasure it, obey it: encounter the living God as He speaks to you in it. (Here's a challenge: the famous missionary explorer David Livingstone, as a boy of 9, won a Sunday School prize for reciting all Psalm 119 by heart!)

Prayer

Lord, thank You for being the God who makes Yourself known in Your Word. Help me to encounter You daily as I read that Word. Open my ears to hear You; open my eyes to see You; open my mind to understand You; open my heart that I might know and love You through Your Word and by Your Spirit. Amen.

Remember

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another. A service of Holy Communion is open to all each Wednesday at 10am. Preregister at the office and come and join us. I am only a phone call away if you need my assistance: 0438 455 493.

With Christian love,

Robert