

“Man Shall Not Live By Bread Alone” by E A Terry Delivered 3/1/20

2nd Timothy 3: 16 -17; Matthew 7:24 – 29; Matthew 4: 1 – 11; **Deuteronomy 8: 1 – 19 (Sermon)**

In our lesson from Deuteronomy Moses is addressing the Children of Israel before they entered into The Promised Land.

The command to remember who God is and what God has done is repeated throughout Deuteronomy.

Moses reminded them how God protected them and provided for them throughout the 40 years that The Children of Israel were in the wilderness.

In verses 1 – 3 Moses also reminded the Children of Israel what they must do to live, to prosper, and to enjoy their inheritance.

These reminders also apply to us today.

In verses 2 & 3 we also read the reason that God humbled and tested The Children of Israel was ***“to teach you that man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of The Lord.”***

Today God also humbles us and tests us to teach us ***“that man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of The Lord.”***

This morning I want us to think about the meaning of; ***“... man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of The Lord.”*** and the application of those words for us today.

Genesis 1 tells us that God created humans in His image.

Since God is a Spirit that means we are spiritual beings.

God is eternal so that means our spirit will live throughout eternity.

God is holy so that means our purpose is to reflect God’s holy attributes in all that we do and say.

When God created us God also gave us a free will.

God did not give free will to us do as we please but rather God gave us free will so that we would be able to choose to love Him, to obey Him, to enjoy Him and to serve Him.

When Jesus said; ***man shall not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”***

Jesus was telling us we need to be as concerned about what we are feeding our spirits as we are about feeding our physical bodies.

Sadly, today there are many people in the world who are spiritually starving to death.

They are spiritually starving because they do not know about the love of God or the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

God’s Word tells us the way to eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but will have eternal life. For God did not send His son to condemn the world but to save the world through Him. (John 3:16 -17)

We all know that we can not remain physically healthy if we only eat one small meal once a week.

Neither can you stuff yourself one time to store up food and not eat for the rest of the week.

But spiritually that is exactly what some Christian do.

They come to church on Sunday but they do not read, study, and / or mediate on God Word during the rest of the week.

The result is there are many spiritually anemic Christians.

They are anemic because they only spend a few minutes a day reading *The Bible Verse For The Day* on their phone or reading a devotion in *“Our Daily Bread”*.

God’s Word is clear, if you want to be a healthy Christian you must devote some quality time each day reading, studying, and mediating on God’s Word.

When we do not eat the right food our body’s immune system is compromised and our bodies can not fight off bacteria and viruses.

Spiritually when we are not studying and mediating on God’s Word each day we cannot resist temptations and Satan’s attacks.

Psalm 119:11 says: ***“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”***

If we are not studying and mediating on God’s Word each day we allow Satan to steal our joy, our peace, and our hope.

When this occurs we become discouraged and Satan keeps us from experiencing the abundant victorious life that Jesus promised. (John 10:10)

When God’s Word is not in our minds and in our hearts, we become ineffective Christians and we are ultimately defeated.

We live in an evil world but the evil world should not be in us!

Instead of reading and studying God’s Word some people attempt to nourish their spirit by reading self-help books and mediating.

While these may be of some value, they are spiritual *“junk food”* compared to the Word of God.

If you are living on spiritual junk food you will never experience the real joy and peace that Jesus offers.

You see if your spirit is weak and undernourished, you are easy prey for the devil.

God's Word gives us gives us light to guide us through life's journey.

Psalm 119:105 says ***"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path"***.

News articles may inform us, novels may entertain us, and poetry may inspire us but only the living, active, eternal Word of God can transform us.

Hebrews 4:12 tells; ***"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."***

We all need to get God's word into our head and then we need to get God's into our hearts to make sure that God's Word guides all of our daily words and all of our actions.

Hebrews 5: 11 – 14 warns us that we will never become spiritually mature Christians unless we are constantly feeding on the solid food in God's Word.

Not only do we need to read, to study, and to mediate on God's Word; we must also apply God's word to our daily life.

James 1:22 warns us with these words; ***"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."***

Think about this; if our physical bodies only last 70 – 80 years and our spirits last throughout eternity shouldn't we be investing more of our time nurturing our spirit?

In our lesson from Matthew 4 we see that Jesus refused to give into His Satan's temptation to turn stones into bread even though Jesus had been in the desert and Jesus had fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.

Jesus said; ***"man shall not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."*** when Jesus rebuked Satan's temptation.

If Jesus used scripture to overcome temptation and defeat Satan we should learn that the best way, the only way, to completely overcome temptation is to quote scripture.

But we cannot quote scripture if we do not read, study, and mediate on God's word.

Remember Jesus was with His disciples 24 / 7.

Jesus taught His disciples as they walked along.

The lesson for us is that we need to walk closely with Jesus each day so that Jesus can teach us, guide us, and nourish our souls.

Jesus said; ***"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which The Son of Man will give you."*** (John 6:27)

God's Word to us challenges each of us to ask ourselves; ***"Am I hungry for God's Word?"***

“Do I look forward to reading, studying, and mediating on God’s Word to me?”

“Do I expect God to speak to me when I am mediating on His Word?”

You see God uses His Word to convict us and to change our lives.

Our lesson from Deuteronomy clearly tells us that knowing and obeying God’s Word is the key to being prosperous and successful.

In addition, The Bible promises a blessing to everyone who reads, studies, and mediates on His Word. (Psalm 1: 1 – 3 & Revelation 1:3).

So the questions are; *“Do I want The Lord’s blessings”?*

“Do I want to grow closer to Jesus?”

“Do I want to be prosperous and successful”?

If you do you will read, study, and mediate on God’s Word every day.

Jesus said; “man shall not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

AMEN