

Formed by the Word Proclaimed | Psalm 19:7-10

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweet also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Why Is It Important to be Formed by the Word of God?

Because the word of God is the primary means by which God reveals Himself to His church;

How is the word of God formative? Psalm 19 (6 ways)

1. Revival;

- "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior." (Titus 3:4-6)

2. Wisdom;

3. Joy

4. Enlightening;

5. Endures forever;

6. Protects and Worth Pursuing

- "Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression." (Psalm 19:11-13)

- "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Where is the formation of God's Word expressed in the Church?

A. Preaching God's Word

The primary method by which the word of God is formative for the people of God is through the preaching and teaching of God's word.

- "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching." (1 Timothy 4:13)

- "Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation." (Psalm 85:4-7)

- "God is unusually present, by His Spirit, in the preaching of His Word. Such preaching starts in a biblical text, stays in it, and shows its God-intended meaning in a life-changing fashion." (Dr. Steven Lawson)

1. Exposition

- a. Guarding sound doctrine;
- b. Guarding the pulpit;

- "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." (Acts 17:11)

- "I would rather speak five words out of this book than 50,000 words of the philosophers. If we want revivals, we must revive our reverence for the Word of God. If we want conversations, we must put more of God's Word into our sermons." (Charles Spurgeon)

2. Worship and Sanctification

- a. Revelation - Proclamation - Confession in our Sunday liturgy;

- "Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:11-12)

3. Discipleship

- And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15a)

- "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil." (Hebrews 5:12-14)

Why Does This Matter?

1. When we take away the preaching of God's Word, we remove the means by which He pours His grace out onto His people;

- "Such preaching necessitates declaring the full counsel of God in Scripture. The entire Word must be expounded. No truth should be left untaught, no sin unexposed, no grace unoffered, no promise undelivered." (Dr. Steven Lawson)

Benediction | Colossians 3:16

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)