

A. God motivates:

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW WHEN THE LORD GIVES US COMMAND, HE ACCOMPANIES HIS COMMANDS WITH REASONS OR MOTIVATIONS FOR US TO PURSUE HIM AND TO RECEIVE OF HIM?

When the Lord commanded Abram to leave his own land and travel to a "new" land, He gave Abram **five** reasons or motivations:

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus listed **nine** qualities and rewards in a believer's life.

B. Looking for "that Day":

This morning we are going to consider the ministry of the Word of God in our lives and the reason for God's Word to hold a central place in our hearts and lives

Why should we make the study and application of God's Word of greater importance in our lives this year?

Because the Lord has told us that He is preparing us for our wedding Day through His Word.

the day when we shall be presented to the Lord Jesus as His Bride and we want to see Him smile with great joy over us.

C. Our need for the Word of God:

Let's consider how we will be prepared for our wedding day through the Word.

The Word of God prepares us in two major areas: *Our salvation and our sanctification*

all the other benefits of the Word will be gathered into these categories:

Our salvation: our "engagement" day: **Hosea 2: 19-20**

Remember "how we got "betrothed"? **1 Peter 1:1b -2**

The Lord caused us to recognize our need of Him.

So what did we do when this happened? **We called out to the Lord to save us!!!**

But we were unaware that the Lord was using His Word to woo and win us. **Col. 1:3-5; Acts 2:37**

Our sanctification: our preparation for "that Day" **Matt. 22:2**

Now is the time of our preparation for that wedding feast.

In **John 13**, Jesus washes the feet of His disciples and thus shows them how to prepare for their wedding day:

The Apostle Paul probably had this pattern in mind when he wrote:

In **John 17**, Jesus prays for His disciples' transformation, for their wedding day preparation:

In this prayer and in His example of foot washing, Jesus sets forth the only way for us to be transformed, for us to be properly prepared for our wedding day=

ONLY BY THE WORD OF GOD'S POWER=**Col. 3:16**,

Knowing this, we should now be anxious to ask: *Now that I am "engaged", I want to know the areas that Word of God will prepare me for my wedding day so that I might take full advantage of my time of preparation to be the most beautiful bride for my Lord.*

The Word of God reveals god:

The most significant work of the Word is its revelation of God: **John 1:1,14**

When we speak about the Word and about our pursuit of the Word, we are essentially speaking about our pursuit of a Person, the Lord Jesus. **Mark 1:1; Gal.3:8; John 5:39**

Therefore, when we read the pages of our Bible, we are encountering a Person with Whom we can have communion and fellowship, And from Whom we will be able to receive everything necessary for our lives. **2 Peter 1:2-3**

Therefor, what are some of the things He desires to say to us so that we will be properly prepared for the day we stand before Him in glory?

The Lord Jesus wants to reveal our sin through His Word: **Heb. 4:12**

No bride wants to be presented to her husband with the defilement of the world on her so she will assiduously inspect herself and allow others to do so in order for her to be as clear of blemish as possible.

We must continually ask the Lord to do the same in relation to our sin.

Psalms 119:1-16

The Lord Jesus wants to protect us against the influences of the world and Satan through His Word: **1 Peter 1:5**

How would we know who or what is against us unless we are told?

Jesus tells us in the Word **1 John 2:15; 1 Peter 5:8**

How would we know how to protect ourselves?

Jesus tells us in the Word **1 Peter 5:9; James 4:7-11a**

The Lord Jesus wants to preserve us until that day:

How do we know that we will gain the prize of eternal life?

Jesus tells us in the Word **1 Peter 1:4**

The Lord Jesus wants us to experience intimate fellowship with Him.

How do we know how to have such fellowship?

Jesus tells us in the Word **Matt. 11:28; Jeremiah 29:13-14**

The Lord Jesus wants us to know that he will heal us:

How do we know that He still desires to minister to our physical needs?

Jesus tells us in the Word **1 Cor. 12:8-9**

The Lord Jesus wants to provide for our daily needs

How do we know

Jesus tells us in the Word **Matt. 6:11; John 6:35**

The Lord Jesus wants us to be strengthened in suffering,

How do we know how to deal with our suffering

Jesus tells us in the Word **Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 1 Peter 2:21**

The Lord Jesus wants us to know that he is sovereign and has our future in the hollow of his hands

How do we know

Jesus tells us in the Word **Heb. 1:3b; Isaiah 45:5; Rev. 1:8**

The Lord Jesus wants us to be victors in all things:

How do we know and how can we be victors?

Jesus tells us in the Word

1 Cor. 15:57 2 Cor. 2:14 Rom. 8:37

Jesus has done and said everything necessary so that we will be prepared for our glorious wedding day.

How do we know?

Jesus tells us in the Word

John 14:26; 5:15

The Lord Jesus wants to know everything and anything that we need to know about him and about us and everything about what and how we need to live so that we will be prepared for His glorious day.

How do we know

Jesus tells us in the Word **John 14:26; 5:15**

As we pursue Him in the Word I want to encourage you to read Psalm 119 where the Word of God is paramount and its many benefits and accomplishments are listed.

Listed are the several terms that the Psalmist uses in his reference to God's Word [Clarke]

1. Testimonies=23 x's
2. Commandments=23x's
3. Precepts=21x's
4. Word=42x's
5. Law=25x's
6. Ways=18x's
7. Truth=4x's
8. Judgments=5x's
9. Righteousness=6x's
10. Statutes=22x's