

Stick with the Word!

Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NLT)

I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: 2 Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

3 For a time is coming when people will no longer [listen to sound and wholesome teaching] (endure sound doctrine (KJV)). They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear (conspiracy theories). 4 They will reject the truth and chase after myths (conspiracy theories).

5 But you should **keep a clear mind** in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

Matthew 16:1-4 "The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven. 2 -- He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. 3 And in the morning, It will be foul

weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times? 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed."

They couldn't discern the signs of the times, got in to fear which drove them to hate Jesus and kill him. They didn't know the times because they had no humility to receive the Scriptures. Many today have neither humility nor the Scriptures.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own understanding.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

(Dake Study Bible Notes)

- Destruction of strong holds--We destroy reasonings of pagan philosophers and Jewish rabbis and their dogmas that nullify the Word of God and the facts of the Gospel. These fortifications we pull down and demolish. We put to flight the demon powers and alien armies, raising the banner of the cross high on the field of battle (2Cor. 10:4).
- Casting down imaginations--We demolish all theories, reasonings, and any high system of ethics, religion, mythology, metaphysics, sublime doctrines or philosophy set forth to defy the knowledge of God (2Cor. 10:5). All the boasted gods, lords, sacrificial and

mediatorial systems fell before the Gospel. The high-sounding phrases of Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, and even Judaism fell before the preaching of the crucified and risen Christ. Heathenism shrank before the Gospel and called on secular powers to defend it.

Mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:12-16

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Isaiah 8:11-13

A Call to Trust the LORD

The LORD has given me a strong warning not to think like everyone else does. He said,

“Don’t call everything a conspiracy, like they do,
and don’t live in dread of what frightens them.

Make the LORD of Heaven’s Armies holy in your life.

He is the one you should fear.

He is the one who should make you tremble.

Job 1:13-22 (GW) 13 One day when Job’s sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s home, 14 a messenger came to Job. He said, “While the oxen were plowing and the

donkeys were grazing nearby, 15 men from Sheba attacked. They took the livestock and massacred the servants. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you."

16 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "A fire from God fell from heaven and completely burned your flocks and servants. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you."

17 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three companies and made a raid on the camels. They took the camels and massacred the servants. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you."

18 While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine at their oldest brother's home 19 when suddenly a great storm swept across the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It fell on the young people, and they died. I'm the only one who has escaped to tell you."

20 Job stood up, tore his robe in grief, and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 He said,

"Naked I came from my mother,
and naked I will return.

The Lord has given,
and the Lord has taken away!

May the name of the Lord be praised."

22 Through all this Job did not sin or blame God for doing anything wrong.

- Job chapters 4-23 are Job's friends trying to explain according to their understanding why all these bad things happened to Job.
- And then Job spends chapter after chapter defending himself and asking God why all this is happening to him.
- Finally, the Lord speaks to Job, But God never answers his question as to [why, God?]

Job 38:1-11 (GW) 1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm.

2 “Who is this that belittles my advice
with words that do not show any knowledge ʿ about it ʹ?”

3 Brace yourself like a man!

I will ask you, and you will teach me.

The Lord Speaks about Creation

4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me if you have ʿ such ʹ insight.

5 Who determined its dimensions?

Certainly, you know!

Who stretched a measuring line over it?

6 On what were its footings sunk?

Who laid its cornerstone

7 when the morning stars sang together

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

8 “Who shut the sea behind gates

when it burst through and came out of the womb,

9 when I clothed it with clouds

and wrapped it up in dark clouds,

10 when I set a limit for it

and put up bars and gates,

11 when I said, ‘You may come this far but no farther.

Here your proud waves will stop’?

The incredible, vast depths of what we don’t understand is beyond comprehension. It is incredibly arrogant to assume that we “get” what is happening or try to say what will happen next.

Isaiah 57:15

For thus saith the high and lofty One

that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy;

He understands everything because everything is in His hand. He is on the outside, looking in; and yet, He is also on the inside guiding us.

1. Luke 13:1-5 NLT

About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. “Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?” Jesus asked. “Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too.”

2. John 11:30-32 (NLT)

Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. 31 When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus’s grave to weep. So they followed her there. 32 When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

3. John 21:15-23 (NLT)

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter replied, “you know I love you.”

“Then feed my lambs,” Jesus told him.

16 Jesus repeated the question: “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Lord,” Peter said, “you know I love you.”

“Then take care of my sheep,” Jesus said.

17 A third time he asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.

18 “I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don’t want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”

20 Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” 21 Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”

22 Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.” 23 So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn’t die. But that isn’t what Jesus said at all. He only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

Closing:

Acts 1:4-8

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.