

You and the Word of God (Bible Sunday)

JOHN 1:1-5

In the beginning there was the Word.¹The Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ All things were made by Him, and nothing was made without him.⁴ In Him there was life, and that life was the light of all people.⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All power in heaven and on earth is given to me.¹⁹ So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.²⁰ Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age.

TITUS 2:6-10

In the same way, encourage young men to be wise.⁷ In every way be an example of doing good deeds. When you teach, do it with honesty and seriousness.⁸ Speak the truth so that you cannot be criticized. Then those who are against you will be ashamed because there is nothing bad to say about us.⁹ Slaves should yield to their own masters at all times, trying to please them and not arguing with them.¹⁰ They should not steal from them but should show their masters they can be fully trusted so that in everything they do they will make the teaching of God our Savior attractive.

Today is BIBLE SUNDAY. Annually the Bible Society nominates a Sunday to encourage everyone of the importance of the Bible and making it available to everyone; and particularly getting it translated into other languages.

Currently there are 4,430 languages that the Bible is not translated into. This sounds impossible but when you think that an Island like PNG has 800 Dialects then you can realise that the number of nations that have not heard the Word is a lot less.

But let's bring this a little closer to home.

We are called to ‘Disciple the Nations’ but many of us aren’t even comfortable with our workmates knowing that we are Christians.

The Bible teaches us that we are called to be Kings and Priests and in the days the Bible was written these two groups of people were the MOST INFLUENTIAL people around.

The ‘pauper’ mindset will always reduce the Christian Message to one of a cry for help instead of a call for Leadership.

We don't need the nation to change for our sake. We have a *living, abiding, unshakeable*, Kingdom that dwells within us and prospers under all circumstances. We need the nation to change for the sake of those still lost in darkness and to fulfil the desire of the Father ... which

is that NONE SHOULD PERISH BUT COME TO THE SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF & EVERLASTING LIFE THROUGH, JESUS CHRIST HIS SON.

Try to imagine not having the Bible in your language? OR try to understand someone speaking to you about the Bible in another language ... this is how it is often received or heard.

This is God's Word, God's revelation of Himself and of His purposes for humankind. This is the manufacturer's instruction manual.

But, it did not come with the product – pre-packaged. It has been put together through the course of human history, through the grind of the lives of real ordinary men and women. This is what makes it so unique.

God has spoken from His Throne to and through humans. Its divine origin means we should both revere and obey it, giving it our fullest attention to what it means for us today.

In Jesus' time, it is estimated that only about 5% of the population of Palestine would have been functionally literate. In today – I suggest that while the literacy rate is much higher, the 'heard and understood' rate would be similar to Jesus' days.

Q. Do we get as excited about Jesus and His Word as we did about the Rugby last night?

Now perhaps that is a little caustic ... we would never say that 'this or that'... is more important than God. You are correct we would never 'SAY' it with words but we do say it with our day-to-day lives.

One of the saddest things is when people have just enough 'religion' to soothe their conscience and not know we are hurting God's heart, despising and ignoring His Commandments.

Here's a thought ... *why are we here if not for the advancement of the Kingdom of God?*

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