

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **Romans 1:16***

## Store In My Heart

### 2Thessalonians 1:6-8

... since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Reward for the faithful and punishment for the wicked. Note God's vengeance will be inflicted on those who do not know Him as well as those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus.

Atheists, those who follow man made gods, and those who refuse Jesus will all suffer the same fate.

Just notice that punishment is not at this time. It is for when Jesus returns. God never promised to punish our oppressors immediately.



# The Drawing Power Of God's Word

## Joe Price

Let's face it; people do not always come to a Bible classes or worship services to hear the word of God. Some come to please someone else. Others come with an expectation of being entertained. Still others come looking for a chance to object to whatever is said or done. These are ungodly traits. Others do have ears to hear, and come in order to *"sit at the feet of Jesus"* and intently hear, learn and live the gospel of the Savior (**Luke 8:8; 10:38-42**).

God's inspired word is designed to draw sinners to God and to the salvation in His Son. It is sufficient to the task (**Romans 1:16; 2Timothy 3:16-17**). Jesus said, *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me"* (**John 6:44-45**). To deny the power of the word of God to draw sinners to Christ is to deny the power of God.

Brethren must trust the word of God to draw the lost and to preserve the saved. It is the message that must draw the lost to salvation (**1Peter 1:22-25**). For example, why is it some brethren prefer to use recreational activities to advertise and encourage young people to attend special services intended for their spiritual benefit? Are young people only interested in hearing the gospel when it is

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We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ  
1512 Tanner Street  
Malvern, AR 72104  
(501) 332-8806

## Find Us Online

preacher@tannerst.com

tannerst.com  
FB @TannerStCoC

## For Our Information

Joyce Venable is in St Vincent in Hot Springs. They have been running tests and have changed her medications. She is a little better.

Clifton and Gloria Hurst are doing some better. Clifton has a couple weeks of isolation left.

Amy Simpson is able to move around a little bit, but just barely.

Judges 16 at 5 this evening.

1Corinthians 16 at 7 on Wednesday.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

associated with wiener roasts, volleyball and overnight lock-in games and activities? I do not believe so, and those who are interested in feeding their souls will not be lured by offers intended to feed the belly (**John 6:26**). It is revealing that in the same context in which people thought they could come to Jesus to have their stomachs fed that Jesus said He feeds the soul as the bread of life (**John 6:27-38**). Jesus did not use food to draw people to Himself; we dare not attempt it today.

Some, while emphasizing faith in Jesus, tell us not to put our faith in the Bible. We cannot do one without the other. Jesus is "the Word" we must hear and follow (**John 1:1-3,14-18;14:6**). The inspired Psalmist said, "I have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Your word" (**Psalms 119:42**). He put his faith in God's word. We must, too. Jesus teaches us truth (**Ephesians 4:20-21**). Faith in Jesus is not and cannot be separated from faith in His word, the Bible (**Romans 10:17; 2Timothy 3:16-17**).

Like the apostles, we must go and "speak to the people all the words of this life" (**Acts 5:20**). We need not add games and gimmicks to the drawing power of God's word. Divine truth is sufficient to draw good and honest hearts to Christ (**Luke 8:14-15; Acts 17:11-12**).

(I used to hear the phrase, "If you bring them in with hamburgers, you will need steak to keep them." A look back at the escalation of such plans demonstrates the truth in that. Fortunately if we use the Word of God to attract individuals there is a never ending feast for anyone who desires to learn of God. Every plan of man will eventually fail, but God's methods will still be working to save souls until the return of Christ to take His children home. Any outreach program must be centered and focused on the Word or it will not be successful in changing hearts.

The Word delivered by the Spirit is filled with the power of God and will turn the hearts of men from the world if we allow it to work. That means we need to be living and telling God's Word in all of our activities. We are the "World's Bible". You may be the only contact with that Word for someone. We need to make certain we know the Word. Study, Pray, Practice. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!