

created to be like God in righteousness and holiness. **Ephesians 4:22-24** 22 "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." You see, God's Word helps us to be careful and wise in how we should live, making the most of our opportunity, because the days are evil. **Ephesians 5:15-16** 15 "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil." That's the purpose of the Word, to protect us as we go through life and to help us resist the schemes of the devil. Rightly dividing the Word of Truth protects us from the fiery missiles of the devil and of this world. The Word also helps us to be careful and wise in our daily lives. The Word gives us understanding on how to keep God's laws and to obey them with all our hearts. (**Psalms 119:34**) The Word will turn our hearts towards God's statutes and not toward our own selfish gain. The

Word will turn our eyes from worthless things and preserve our lives according to God's Word. The Word guides us toward God and His holiness and tells us why Jesus had to die for our sins. The Word is more than just mere words, it is power from God to us, it is God's grace toward us. Thus we should make the most of our time to study and consume God's Word every day of our lives. The Word brings fear of the Lord to our hearts and our minds. The Word will control the inner most part of one's being. With this in mind, we need to be alert and continue to pray for God's Word to fill our inner most thoughts and guide us through life. Let our thoughts always be of God's Word. **Hebrews 4:12-13** 12 *For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

By Bill Davis

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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"Purpose of the Word (Bible) Part 2"

Ephesians 6:10-18 10 *the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on* *the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. One of the purposes of God's Word is to help us be strong in the Lord, filled with His knowledge and spiritual*

wisdom. We may then be able to please the Lord by bearing fruit of every good work, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might. **Psalms 119:33-40** 33 *Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. 35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. 36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not covetousness. 37 Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. 38 Establish Your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You. 39 Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your judgments are good. 40 Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me in Your righteousness.* But, we may ask ourselves, "How can we, as Christians, be strong in the Lord, being strengthened with all power and might?" One thing we need to realize is that we are weak and inadequate to stand up against the schemes of the devil. For one to be strong in the Lord, one must read and study God's Word daily and meditate on it. **Psalms 1:2** 2 *To be strong in the Lord, one must consume the Word of God as one eats honey. Psalms 119:103* 103 *"How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"* And one needs to fill his spiritual hunger, just as one eats bread to quench physical hunger. The Word of God provides us with nourishment to live by. **Deuteronomy 8:3** 3 *"So He humbled you, allowed you to hun-*

ger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord." We must understand that God's Word is power and strength for those who put their trust in it. **Psalms 147:5** 5 *"Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite."* **Psalms 7:10** 10 *"My defense is of God, who saves the upright in heart."* Another purpose of the Word is to give us the strength and the means to defend ourselves against the schemes and the lies of the devil.

Matthew 4:1-11 11 *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down, For it is written, 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" 8 Again, the devil took Him*

up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. When Jesus was tempted by the devil, the devil used the very Word of God to try to get Jesus to sin. However, the devil did not fully quote the Word of God accurately. Jesus knew the Word of God fully and accurately. He not only knew the Word, he also lived by the Word. Jesus showed us through his example how to fight the devil when he tempts us to sin. The Word gave Jesus the strength that He needed to fight off the devil. **Psalms 119:11** 11 *"Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You."* The word must dwell within our hearts and minds if we are to be strong and ready to fight the attacks of the devil. The Bible, which is God's Word, was written to govern us through life. God's Word is a book that teaches us to fear God and only worship Him. It teaches us that God's Son, Jesus, died on that cruel cross for our sins. We know the greatness of God's love when we read that Jesus, who had no sin, died on the cross so that we might be forgiven of our sins. The Word

teaches us how we can be saved from our sins. (**Acts 2:38**) It teaches us how we may become a part of God's family. (**Acts 2:41**) The Word tells us the history of the church, which is the Lord's body, "the called out." (**Col. 1:18**) As Christians, God left us a way to know how to live a righteous and holy life. God is showing His love for us through his Word, the Bible. In **Romans 15:4**, we read that the past was written to teach us, comfort and encourage us; so that we will not lose faith and turn back into the world. **Romans 15:4** 4 *"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scripture might have hope."* The Word teaches us how to be imitators of God and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us. The Word teaches how to get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, and slander, along with every form of malice. It teaches us to be kind and compassionate toward one another as well as forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God has forgiven us. **Ephesians 4:31-32** 31 *"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."* The Word teaches us to cast off our old selves, which are being corrupted by deceitful desires, and be made new again in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new man,