**For all It’s Worth:** Pay Attention to the Details

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| 06.07.15 | Grace | Part 1 | Various | When we see JC for what He’s worth, we will long for the Bible | 35 Min |

**Well, here we go..**

* **1st of something I hope to do hundreds of times** in my life. 1000 = 25 yrs.

**PRAYER of Dedication** for the preaching ministry of Grace Chapel going forward.

**Introduction:**

Attn: 11 millionaires went down on Titanic. Major A. H. Peuchen left $300,000.00 in money, jewelry and securities in a box in his cabin. "The money seemed a mockery at that time," he later said. "I picked up three oranges instead. We overvalue things that don’t matter and we ignore what gives us life. Must change for a deep walk with God.

Them: The Bible is one of the greatest gifts we’ve been given from God. Hold it up.

Relv: Whether you have studied this for 3 decades or never spent 3 min in it, **I want to show you that a life without time in this will lead to a shallow self-centered life.**

Struct: Set up the series: “How to Study the Bible for all it’s worth”: (not always topical)

* So that we start on the same page as to what the preaching ministry will be at Grace:
* **My goal as a preacher is not only to give you what you like,** but give you what you need. The best way is to look at the whole counsel of scripture. I’m not afraid to stand on toes if it’s biblical and will call you to change. **I love you too much to see you life a life without Jesus and the truth of this Word.**
* **My task as a preacher is to help you bring theological and exegetical ideas to apply to your life.** But I can’t do that without (1) the HS and (2) your help! You have to chew your food too! We share the job of Appling God’s word
* **We will be people dedicated to studying God’s Word.** Count on it every wk.

**We Turn to the world for wisdom and ignore the wisdom of God.**

**We like self-help more than God’s help**. There in lies the problem—“Self-help.”

**5 MISTAKES WE MAKE THAT UNDERVALUE THE BIBLE:**

Let’s be clear: TheBible &the power of HS **is more than capable** to bring everything needed for life & godliness (god-likeness), but there are

**1. we under value it when WE DENY ITS POWER** (Ignorance)

* The Apostle Paul (and JC for that matter) were not afraid to call the generation they lived in 2000 years ago a “wicked and depraved” generation, in & out of the church:
	+ Look at **2 Tim 3:1-7**: This is us too. When our affections are not for God they are for every other ungodly thing. **“The heart is desperately wicked” Jer. 17:9**
* **The Bible is sufficient to cause us Christ-likeness**. It is pure to cleanse the soul. It is complete to causing Joy. It is perfect to endure all time. It is truth to teach life.
* **We take the bible seriously b/c we take JC seriously and He took it seriously**.

**2. we under value it when WE DON’T BELIEVE IT IS RELEVANT** (Hypocrisy)

* + **Those who are not dedicated to Christ see the Bible as unreasonable**—the Bible says “foolishness” (gk – mōrós) literally "moronic” to those w/o God.
	+ We do not reject the Bible b/c it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts us.
	+ **We think that its not specific enough** but that could be cause we haven’t looked
	+ One of the main reasons I pastor and counsel is b/c I love seeing the Bible apply to all sorts of things: broken marriage, rebel kids, sex addiction, anger, anxiety, etc.
	+ **“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”** —Hebrews 4:12
	+ **How would you life be different tomorrow if you really believe the Bible was relevant to your life?** Would anxiety be lessoned? Would hope be increased? Try it.

**3. We under value it when WE SEE IT AS A BURDEN (Legalism)**

* + **A non-believer things that the Bible is just a book of “Unattainable**” items. Many people avoid it b/c they already feel like a failure, why add more?
	+ **“People of the book” in the Jews of Israel**. We too are of the book, but under JC
	+ The Bible calls us to follow JC not a religion. **If we make the Bible to be a law book, we have not heard what Christ said.** He fulfilled Law and called us out of a hypocritical life into a life of freedom in grace and authenticity in truth.
	+ **The Bible doesn’t call us to tiring study, but to join Jesus in true rest:**
* **“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”**—Matthew 11:28 (MSG)
* **Some of you are in patterns of Religion and need freedom** in Christ.

**4. BECAUSE WE DON’T LIKE WHAT IT HAS TO SAY (Sinfulness)**

* + **It says hard things Hard things**, for ex. here are son the Bible says about people:
* **Amos 4:1, ““Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, ‘Bring, that we may drink!’”** Amos 6 as well.
* **Ezekiel 16:30-33, “How sick is your heart, declares the Lord GOD, because you did all these things, the deeds of a brazen prostitute, building your vaulted chamber at the head of every street, and making your lofty place in every square. Yet you were not like a prostitute, because you scorned payment. Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband! Men give gifts to all prostitutes, but you gave your gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from every side with your whorings.”**
* **Prov 21:19, “It's better to live alone in the desert than with a quarrelsome, complaining wife.” Prov 25:24, “better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.”**
* **Read Matt 23,** explain context. JC calls out the Hypocrites for twist the word of God to make them feel righteous. We do same with our merit badges of faith
	+ **Sadly, there are many Pharisees in the Church today:** saying the right things out of guilt or desired appearance and not out of a transformed heart
	+ We want something softer: **Is 30:10-11, “[9] For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; [10] who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, [11] leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah 30:9-11 ESV)**
	+ **Yet sometimes the word of God has to offend:** this shouldn’t surprise us when the center of our belief system is the death of our God. This calls for your life!

**Our Goal is “Godliness” not “Good Moralists”**

* **If we are just good people, we are only halfway there**. God’s don’t call us just be good but calls us to be “Holy” as He is Holy. This means “other-worldly”.
* **We strive to grow to be like Jesus in our mind, attitudes and actions**.
* I purposely will not teach tasks, but strive to teach an orientation to God.

**5. WE DON’T KNOW HOW TO USE IT (Laziness)** and we don’t want to learn.

* We live in a time where this couldn’t be easier. The Web, apps, etc. teach us well
* **God feeds the birds,  but He doesn't throw the food into their nests.**
* **We will take the time to learn how to fix our car on YouTube but we won’t invest the time** to be come a better student of God.
* **We must resolve to never stop learning and always be growing in our faith.**

**The Myths of instant spiritual maturity**:

* **There is no such "instant maturity" available on this earth**. God does not offer a formula that produces fully mature Christians overnight.
* **Christian growth comes through hard-core, gutsy perseverance** of applying what you hear and obeying it... and thereby learning how to handle life’s problems.
* Think of the Scriptures as an absolutely accurate map. A map tells you how to get to a certain destination. Getting to those places means you have to make the effort...pay the cost...take the time for travel...stay at it until you arrive.
* As **A W Pink** wrote, “No verse of Scripture yields its meaning to lazy people.”
* We are told to **“Throw off Childish things” – 1 Corinthians 13:11** and strive for **“Pure Spiritual Milk” – 1 Peter 2:2.** This means we work toward this diligently.

**SO WHAT DO WE DO?** **Value Jesus more.**

* **We are called to love a person**, not a thing. Don’t love knowledge more than HIM
* **Yet a love for the Bible brings a love for our Savior.**
* **We love the Bible because we love Jesus** and Jesus loved the Bible.

**Allow our minds to be transformed: Change always begins in the mind**

Romans 12:2, “**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”**

**We must love the Bible with our hearts & mind.**Chuck Verstraten’s Bible

* Paul said in 2 Thess. 2:10 that those who love God love the truth.

**We must have Routines of Godliness:**

* **Schedule: Calendar your time with God** - if it is important you will schedule it. **Quiet Time is critical, time spent in Presence of God**.
	+ **How**: **Set time aside every day - start with 5 minutes build up**. Read a chapter, several verse, write down in a journal what made an impact.
* **Slow Down:** pay attention to the details and allow the HS to do a work in you.
* **Savor: We must memorize God’s word in our heart**. God’s word is used to direct us, comfort us, rebuke us, give us wisdom, gives us passion and increases our faith. His word most be written on the walls of our heart.

**PRAY and Closing Challenge:**

* **We will study Colossians at the end of this month.**
* **Pick up a card as you leave.**
* **Come say hi in the upper lobby.** We are excited to meet you
* **Next week, please join us for “Getting to know Grace”**

[1] Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, [2] “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, [3] so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. [4] They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. [5] They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, [6] and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues [7] and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. [8] But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. [9] And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. [10] Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. [11] The greatest among you shall be your servant. [12] Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

[13] “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. [15] Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

[16] “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ [17] You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? [18] And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ [19] You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? [20] So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. [21] And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. [22] And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

[23] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. [24] You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

[25] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. [26] You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

[27] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. [28] So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

[29] “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, [30] saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ [31] Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. [32] Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. [33] You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? [34] Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, [35] so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. [36] Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

(Matthew 23:1-36 ESV)

**Second Cutting Room Floor:**

* Isaiah 55:11, **"My word...shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."**
* It has the power to Reveal God, expose our need and transform our life.

**Opening Comments:**

**Introduction:**

Attn: **Three oranges**.

Them:

Relv:

Struct: Set up the series: “How to Study the Bible for all it’s worth”: 3 parts about Bible:

* So that we start on the same page as to what the preaching ministry will be at Grace:
* **My goal as a preacher is not only to give you what you like,** but give you what you need. This is not always fun. I believe the best way to do that is to look at the whole counsel of scripture. Not afraid to step on toes if it is biblical.
* **My task as a preacher is to help you bring theological and exegetical ideas to applicable areas of your life.** But I can’t do that without (1) the HS and (2) your help! You have to chew your food too! We share the job of Appling God’s word to your life.
* I purposely will not teach tasks, but strive to teach an orientation to God.
* **Today we are going to talk about the Bible and how it will help us fulfill the great commandment:** Mind, Hrt, Strength**.** We’ll walk away with ways to go deeper
* **You are loved already.** Part of the way I love you is staying faithful to God’s Word with you. **Let’s do this.** Today I will preach a “Topigetical” sermon**.**

**Teach the story of Josiah in 2 Chronicles 35-36**

* Chapter 34: Josiah was 8, named king, God’s chosen leader or Israel.
	+ Look at 34:30-31: kept commands of God. It was central to conviction & actions
* Chapter 35: at the age of 26 he repaired the house of the Lord (34:8) and restored the records of God, or what could have been called the Bible to the people.
* Chapter 36: He takes matters into his own hands at 39 and ends up dying (36:21-22)
* 36:15-16: They wandered from the word of God; he sent prophets that they rejected
* **Sadly, we have done this too!** We reject the words of God and his wrath rises up
	+ **In their case, “There was no remedy”** in our case there is the hope of the Gspl

**We Turn to the world for wisdom and ignore the wisdom of God. Why?**

1. **We don’t understand the power (and value) of the Bible**.

**The Bible is sufficient to cause us Christ-likeness**. It is pure to cleanse the soul. It is complete to causing Joy. It is perfect to endure all time. It is truth to teach life.

* We take the bible seriously b/c we take Jesus seriously and He took it seriously.
* **"My word...shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."**(Isaiah 55:11)
* It has the power to Reveal God, expose our need and transform our life.
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* We live in a time where this couldn’t be easier. The Web, apps, etc. teach us well
* **God feeds the birds,  but He doesn't throw the food into their nests.**
1. **We don’t believe in its relevance to our life.**
	* **Those who are not dedicated to Christ see the Bible as unreasonable**—the Bible says “foolishness” this can lit. be translated from GK as "moronic”.
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1. **We don’t like what it has to say**.
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* **There is no such "instant maturity" available on this earth**. God does not offer a formula that produces fully mature Christians overnight.
* **Christian growth comes through hard-core, gutsy perseverance** of applying what you hear and obeying it... and thereby learning how to handle life’s problems.
* Think of the Scriptures as an absolutely accurate map. A map tells you how to get to a certain destination. But just looking at a map won't automatically transport you to Arizona or England or Peru. Getting to those places means you have to make the effort...pay the cost...take the time for travel...stay at it until you arrive.
* **In a word, persevere. So it is in the Christian life**. God's map is reliable and available. It is also clear and direct. But there is no hocus-pocus in its pages that automatically sends its reader by way of a magic carpet.
* As **A W Pink** wrote, “No verse of Scripture yields its meaning to lazy people.”
* **Growing in godliness is not for faint of heart**. PERESEVERANCE ILL
* We are told to **“Throw off Childish things” – 1 Corinthians 13:11** and strive for **“Pure Spiritual Milk” – 1 Peter 2:2.** This means we work toward this diligently.

**We must love the Bible with our hearts & mind.**Chuck Verstraten’s Bible

* Paul said in 2 The 2:10 that those who love God love the truth.
* In “Fit Bodies, Fat Minds” by Os Guinness he says that we discount truth and overvalue feelings and preferences. Many of us suffer from “Metal hedonism” finding pleasure for our flesh, but check out minds out as it comes to truth.

**Change always begins in the mind**

Romans 12:2, “**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”**

* Keep in mind the Command: replace the thinking that is toward the world

**Avoid common ways that Christians try to deal with unrighteous thoughts**:

1. **Positive thinking**: This is still self-centered. Your happiness may not be God’s goal; he loves you more than simply giving you happiness. He longs for you to have joy.
2. **Relocating the thoughts:**  - instead of thinking that bad thought, they will try to replace it with something else, but never really renewed the thinking, i.e. “Go to your happy place”,
3. **Repressing the thought**: “I am not going to thinking about it…” and yet they do
4. **Rescheduling the thought:** some try to designate times that it is okay to think about their sin - this is still wrong (out of “Worry Free Living” pg 113-114)
5. **Rebuking the thoughts:** - we are supposed to renew it, but we think we are “rebuking” the thought, but really your flesh is your own sinful desires.

**Learning usually passes through three states**. In the beginning you learn the right answers. In the second state you learn the right questions. In the third and final stage you learn which questions are worth asking.

**To get the most out of God’s Word, Pay Attention to the Details**

**You’ve heard this called Observation.** It can be described as the act of taking notice, fixing the mind upon, beholding with attention and - as used in science, includes the idea of making and recording one's findings.

* Observation is beyond seeing to perceiving. Answering specific questions
* **We live in a fast paced society,** honing the vital skill of observation is not natural for most of us. We want answers fast (How many times have you heard someone say "Just Google it"?). **We loathe to linger** too long observing a section of Scripture.
* **A T Pierson** a well-known 19th century preacher once wrote this comment regarding a passage he was studying, “When I read this passage for the 100th time, the following idea came to me.”
* [**Martin Luther**](http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/biographies/martin-luther-lessons-from-his-life-and-labor) whom God used to return His church to a Sola Scriptura approach (only the Scriptures) which birthed the Reformation, described what in essence is an inductive approach to Bible study when he said,
	+ “I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf. I shake the Bible as a whole, like shaking the whole tree[**Context**]. Then I shake every limb—study book after book [**Overview of Book**]. Then I shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not break the sense [**Observation of Chapters**]. Then I shake every twig, or a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences and words and their meanings [G**reek/Hebrew Word Studies**]."

**If not in God’s word then you’re probably not living right**

* ***Eyeball living?*** It has been said if you **want to know what some one will be like in 5 years** look at what they are reading and who they are hanging around with. To be Godly - **read God’s word and hang out with God in pray.** Move to God’s agenda

**We must have Routines of Godliness**

* **Calendar your time with God** - if it is important you will schedule it. **Quiet Time is critical, time spent in Presence of God**. Need time to focus, ask for forgiveness, and just listen to God. Prayer and Bible reading is to be private and reverent.
	+ **How**: **Set time aside every day - start with 5 minutes build to hour** + Read a chapter, several verse, write down in a journal what made an impact.
* **We must memorize God’s word in our heart**. God’s word is used to direct us, comfort us, rebuke us, give us wisdom, gives us passion and increases our faith. His word most be written on the walls of our heart. I give you a verse each week. Phone.

APPENDIX:

It was reported that eleven millionaires went down on the Titanic. Major A. H. Peuchen left $300,000.00 in money, jewelry and securities in a box in his cabin. "The money seemed a mockery at that time," he later said. "I picked up three oranges instead."

CUTTING ROOM FLOOR:

**We must never get sick of the Word or think we’ve already got it**

* **To think we’ve studied a book, story passage or point** and have no need to look at it again in arrogance. God’s word is always alive and active. We must be alive too.
* **I like the way one of our elders put it**, “It is not where you are in the Word, but that you are in the Word that counts.”He’s right! Where doesn’t matter, just b there

**A T Pierson** a well-known 19th century preacher once wrote this comment regarding a passage he was studying, “When I read this passage for the 100th time, the following idea came to me.” So here we see this great seasoned student of the Scripture saying "I've got to read it repeatedly and the more I read it the more I observe." That's the genius of the Word of God and why it is unlike any other book.

Anxious people tend to not have the Lord in their mind. They are worrying about something and not seeking to have God in their thoughts.

* For Example, in Philippians we can see that we can be disappointed in our circumstances but also have joy in the Lord.

When you are telling someone to “trust in God”, “Rejoice in the Lord" or “Renew your mind” you are flying at 30,000 feet. True biblical preaching and living takes these ideas and deeply apply the Bible to a person’s life. This is where more preachers and shepherds are missing it today.

* I will always strive to be as (1) Biblical and (2) applicational as possible.
* I ask that you too strive to find truth (1) for your own heart and then (2) for those that God has called you to (i.e. wife, kids, coworkers, neighbors etc.)

**TWO PREREQUISITES  For Productive Applying the Bible to Life**

(1) **Willingness to slow down** – Something’s take time, seem reparative. That is okay. Louie Giglio’s one word Bible Study – impactful when you are willing to take the time.

(2) **Desire to carefully observe what the passage is literally saying unbiased by prior experience**. Too often we read back into the Bible things that are not really there. Example – “Where two or three are gathered, there I am also.” Wrongly interp.

* **The Ladder:** some of like the high view – give me the overview and let’s keep moving. Some like the middle, give me some high level stuff, but don’t skip any important details, some of you like the ground level nitty gritty stuff, all are good.

Think of the Scriptures as an absolutely accurate map. A map tells you how to get to a certain destination. But just looking at a map won't automatically transport you to Arizona or England or Peru. Getting to those places means you have to make the effort...pay the cost...take the time for travel...stay at it until you arrive.

* **In a word, persevere. So it is in the Christian life**. God's map is reliable and available. It is also clear and direct. But there is no hocus-pocus in its pages that automatically sends its reader by way of a magic carpet.
* As **A W Pink** wrote, “No verse of Scripture yields its meaning to lazy people.”
* **Involves personalizing and internalizing a portion of God’s Word.**We need to listen to God speak to us through His word. That means we must be in His Word reading it ***and*** praying about it, ***and*** thinking about it’s application so we may “hear” Him speak and pass His will through our minds to our Hearts.
* But frankly, what better object to linger upon lovingly and long, than the eternal Word of Truth, the very revelation from the Creator to His creatures! We dare not let His precious Word "bore" us! And so we need to learn and practice the art of observation for as **Yogi Berra** once said, “**You can see a lot  just by looking.”**