

## A Workman of the Word

4/6/07

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15)

Do you have a plan for memorizing a few valuable scriptures for witnessing? If you have in that memory of yours a good 20 or so key verses, it is amazing how the Holy Spirit can remind you of these and bring them up. You can't share what you don't have. It sure is a comfort during the day when the Holy Spirit reminds me of a given verse in a given situation, and it's just what I needed- to fight despair, to resist temptation, to change an attitude, to rejoice and pray, to encourage co-workers with the word, to witness, to address to others what God says about a given situation. “Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.” (Ps 119) I keep my pocket Bible with me wherever I go at work or elsewhere.

One of the things I like saying to co-workers when greeting them is, “What's the good word for today?” If they have only negative things to say, I may ask them if I can pray for them. For others I'll then tell them a brief good word from the Good Book- a little seed appropriate for the conversation and the person.

Do you give God your firstfruits when it comes to your time? His word is vital. Jose Muniz challenged us at the Fishers of Men Evangelism conference to get through the whole Bible once or twice a year- God challenged me regarding that. Too often I would get bogged down intently studying every nuance and commentary and doing word studies on a passage and only get partway through a chapter- nothing wrong with in-depth studies, but if that's all I was doing, it would take years before getting through the Bible again. I ended up changing my study habits to get through the Word more frequently.

I've learned the hard way that the Word needs to be my first mental food in the morning- not email, not anything else- I must hear from God first. I'll pray before beginning to digest the Word, “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in Your law.” (Ps 119) I've learned also the importance of the Word before bedtime- I need to settle down and focus on the Lord before going to bed. David wrote, “Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord....I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety” (Ps 4)

In addition, my wife, who isn't a church-goer, has seen such a hunger for the Word in me the last 8 years that she wants it too. I read her the Word at bedtime at her request- she falls asleep to my monotonous voice. The last 12-18 months I've read to her most of the Bible. Husbands, are you reading your wife the Word (Eph 5:26)?

Jose and Marv at the conference also mentioned getting the Word on mp3. I'm now getting the Word in my car, adapting my mp3 player to the audio system.

When the weather is nice on days off or right after work, I'll bring my pocket New Testament with me while I'm running.

“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith...” (Heb 12:1-2)

The more I'm filled with the word, the less I desire the distractions and frivolous entertainment this world offers. I look for ways to reduce/eliminate time spent on things that don't matter for eternity. Frankly,

I'd rather read the Word than watch the T.V., read the papers- I want to keep life simple, to own only those things in life that help me draw closer to Jesus, and lay aside that which is just a "weight"- schedule fillers that are of no eternal value.

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with all my heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things..." (*Ps 119:33-37*)

One life to live- one Word that is Perfect, one Gospel that can rescue to the uttermost.