

Your Word Is Truth

The year 2020 was full of unexpected changes, disruptions and adjustments. Everything from work, school, travel, family gatherings and even church services were impacted – in some cases, drastically. Facing these challenges and being isolated, we sinned and struggled in many ways. We experienced fear, anxiety, stress and maybe even depression.

Where do we find hope?

As we approach a new year, we naturally wish for better things. If we have gleaned any insights this year, we realize that this world and its goods are fleeting, our hearts are fickle, and our bodies are frail. Life can sometimes feel like driving through a dark and rainy night through a thick forest in a car that can give up on us any minute.

Where do we find security and direction?

The prophet declares, *“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever”* (Isaiah 40:8). Thankfully there is a light, a roadmap of an enduring and eternal kind from heaven. It is the word of God – God’s own counsel, his own heart revealed to all his children. God’s word illuminates every mile of our way, directs us through every twist and turn, lifts us up at every bump and comforts (and if necessary, confronts) us at every stop. Nothing in life is beyond God’s complete and perfect word – by which he made the heavens and the earth.

Two more things need to be said. Firstly, even the best maps and lights cannot guide us through fierce storms. We need a secure vehicle that can keep going without breaking down. That vehicle is Christ – who came down from heaven. It is those who are *in Christ* – those who trust in him and abide in him – who can see the world with the light and map of God’s word, been given the eyes of the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, it takes practice. The Word is not a tool for every fool. Rather it is a school for every disciple. Christ beckons us to learn from him. We are called to meditate upon, store up, delight in and even declare God’s word – so that we may be conformed to the likeness of Christ. The Word is like hammer and a chisel in God’s hand – day by day, year by year – as it strikes us, it produces the perfect image of Christ in us.

Like previous years, we recommend these Bible reading plans to help you absorb God’s word in a regular and orderly way. The benefit of using a Bible reading plan is accountability and balanced intake of the whole counsel of God’s word. There are also dangers such as “checking the box” or self-righteousness, as M’Cheyne himself points out. But we are to view this as our daily spiritual sustenance – a means of God’s grace, together with prayer.

Pastor Shiv
December 2020

