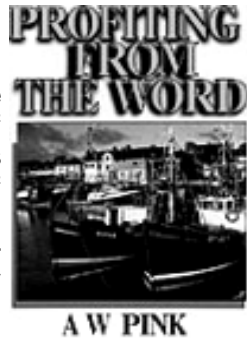


Take and Read

From Our Library.

The question of profiting from Scripture provides the theme for this book, originally published as a series in Studies in the Scriptures. How much profit do we gain from our reading of the Bible? 'All Scripture', we are told in 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, 'is profitable', but how much do we gain from our reading of Scripture, and by what means can we learn to profit more? These questions, which are so fundamental to Christian experience and happiness, provide the theme for this book by Arthur W Pink.



Review

"This book is based on 2Tim.3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. This book is like a mini practical theology. It takes the major doctrines of the Bible and examines the effect that should be produced in the life of anyone that has embraced these truths from the heart. Is your life being transformed by the power of God? This book will be of great help to anyone that would like an honest answer to that very important question. " By J.Adrian

Quote of the Month

"We do not come to listen to preaching merely to hear what we do not know, but to be incited to do our duty." - John Calvin

Calendar of Events

December 2008

- Sunday's Church Services — 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
- Tuesday's Women's Bible Study — 2nd, 16th, 30th
- Wednesday's Church Bible Study — 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24, 31st
- Thursday's Prayer Meeting — 11th ,



"More than conquerors"

Issue 4

December 2008

"...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" - Romans 8:37.

The Pastor's Letter

Dear Brethren,

December is well-known for its commercialism. When the apostle discusses giving and receiving in his second letter to the Corinthians, he concludes by an exclamatory remark: 'Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!' What is he referring to, exactly? Many guesses have been propounded. Considering the strong language used, we are almost forced to conclude that the 'unspeakable gift' is his Son, being given for the salvation of the church, his bride. Christ Jesus remains and always will be the great, supreme, all-comprehending gift. And like Paul we are meant to cultivate this sense of gratitude to God for not sparing His own Son but delivering Him for us all, a sure guarantee that with Him God will also give us freely all things. So in giving gifts, in showing little gestures of compassion to each other, in doing good works, in giving to others and whatever other giving is expressed from day to day, it will become much more significant to remember that we only do this because of what God has already done on our behalf, making us rich in Christ.

Be sure to enjoy THE UNDESCRIBABLE GIFT!

Yours in Him
Paul

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"More than conquerors" - Trinity Evangelical Church Newsletter

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Experimental Christianity

10 Helpful Tips For Benefiting From Sermons.

Consider how many sermons you have heard! Sometimes you have been challenged and uplifted, sadly many times you have been bored and received nothing. George Herbert often told his congregation that sermons are dangerous things, and that none goes out of Church as he came in, but either better, or worse. The truth is, that every sermon we have heard has either softened or hardened us. We would therefore like to share with you 10 tips which can greatly help you benefit more from sermons.

1. Before coming to God's house to hear His Word, prepare yourself with prayer. Pray for a listening ear and an understanding heart. Before you leave your home, pray for the person who will speak, and also for yourself and for all those who will be present.
2. Remember that as you prepare yourself to listen you are entering a battleground. Many enemies will oppose your listening. There are internal distractions (a critical spirit, worldly cares and employments, a cold heart, drowsiness, wandering thoughts etc.) and external distractions (the temperature or weather, behaviour or dress of others, noises, people moving about etc.) Rest assured that Satan will try to *disturb you before the sermon begins, distract you during the sermon, and dismisses the sermon from your mind as soon as it is finished.*
3. Come to hear, not out of curiosity or habit, but from a sincere desire to know and do your duty. To enter His house merely to have our ears entertained, and not our hearts reformed, must certainly be highly displeasing to the Most High God, as well as unprofitable to ourselves.
4. Do not entertain even the least prejudice against the preacher. Take heed therefore, and beware of entertaining any dislike against those whom the Holy Ghost has made overseers over you.
5. Be careful not to depend too much on a preacher, or think more highly of him than you ought to think. Preachers are simply God's ambassadors, bringing you the Word of God. Do not focus on them but on the word of God they bring. Pray that you see "no man, save Jesus only" (Matt. 17:8)
6. Listen attentively to the preached word. Good listening is hard work and many people prefer to listen halfheartedly to sermons. We must not listen as spectators but as participants. We should listen with humility and serious self-examination.
7. Give diligent heed to those things spoken from the Word of God. Jesus said; 'take heed therefore how you hear.' (Lk 8:18) Of four kinds of hearers in the parable of the sower, only one kind heard properly. Is this the reality in our Churches? Which kind of hearer are you?
8. Examine yourself rather than apply the Word to others, and make particular application to your own heart of everything that is delivered. When our Savior was discoursing at the last supper with His beloved disciples and foretold that one of them should betray Him, each of them, instead of saying '*This was intended for such and such a one!*' turned their thoughts inwardly and immediately applied it to his own heart saying, '*Lord, is it I?*' (Matt. 26:22). Oh how far more beneficial should we find sermons to be than now they generally are if only we did this and always asked "Lord, what will thou have **me** do?" (Acts 9:6)
9. Be submissive to the Lord when He speaks and do not harden your heart or refuse to respond.
10. Respond quickly – whether with repentance, resolution, determination or praise – and God is honored in this. Ask yourself, 'how does God want me to be different on account of this sermon?' Ask what God wants you to know that you did not know before. Ask what truths you are learning that he wants you to believe. Ask how he wants you to put those truths into practice. Finally, hear what the Westminster Divines said: (Answer to Q.160) "It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives." Remember that one day you will give an account before God of every sermon that He has brought to you. Join us and pray; "Lord, how real the danger is that I will not hear well! Help me, Lord, to concentrate fully on Thy Word as it comes to me. Let Thy Word have free course in my heart. Let it be accompanied with light, power and grace. Amen"

Catechism Corner

Question 16 Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

The fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery. (Romans 5:18)

Question 17 Wherein consists the sinfulness of that state whereinto man fell?

The sinfulness of that state whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, (Romans 5:19) the want of original righteousness, (Romans 3:10) and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin, (Ephesians 2:1; Psalms 51:5) together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it. (Matthew 15:19)

Question 18 What is the misery of that state whereinto man fell?

All mankind, by their fall, lost communion with God, (Genesis 3:8,24) are under his wrath and curse, (Ephesians 2:3; Galatians 3:10) and so made liable to all the miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever. (Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:41)

Question 19 Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?

God having, out of his good pleasure from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, (2Thessalonians 2:13) did enter into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a

Remember and Learn

REMEMBER Herod, and how he liked to listen to the preaching of John the Baptist, whom he considered to be a righteous and holy man, and yet was unwilling to obey his admonitions (Mark 6: 16-29); and **LEARN** that it is not enough to 'like' the preacher and enjoy listening to his sermons, if then we do not obey the word of the Lord.



Sayings of: - Arthur. W. Pink (1886 - 1952)

- Unless our 'Bible study' is conforming us, both inwardly and outwardly, to the image of Christ, it profits us not.
- A prayerless Christian is a contradiction in terms.
- We must distinguish between things that differ, namely, a knowledge of spiritual things and actual spiritual knowledge. The one is merely intellectual and theoretical; the other is vital and effectual.
- Most Christians expect little from God, ask little, and therefore receive little and are content with little.
- God has given us his word not only to *instruct* us but to *direct* us.

