

Scripture and Prayer
Deuteronomy 11:1-22
December 31, 2017

We know hundreds, some thousands of songs that we have memorized just by listening over and over again.

\$42,000 spent on music in a person's lifetime (includes CD's, ipods, downloads, etc., according to a study by Prudential.)

According to "Real Wire" the average American will listen to a total of 13 years' worth of music in their lifetime.

The average person spends 32 hours a week listening to music (Forbes).

It's been said that many of the Jews in Old Testament times knew much, if not all, of the Torah. In fact, I read this week where a 13-year-old had memorized 130 verses in preparation for his Bar Mitzvah.

So what does God's Word tell us about memorizing and knowing His Word?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 1:1-3

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:11

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 3:16

I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

If I am not in the Word this cannot happen and one of the greatest ways this happens is my memorizing God's Word.

I challenge us as a church to memorize at least one verse a week.

It is important to not only read, but study and MEMORIZE God's Word because:

- 1) It is **commanded**. (Deuteronomy 11 and Joshua 1:8)
- 2) It helps me/us not sin and ward off the enemy.

Matthew 4:1-11

Don't focus on the sin but on the Savior and His Word.

- 3) It can help with **anxiousness**.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:11

Being able to recite God's Word both in our heart and out loud is a huge "weapon."

4) It is God's Word.

It is the very words of God, HIStory, given to us for us to learn, grow, study and memorize.

So just how do I begin?

- 1) A verse (or 2) a week – we will place in your hand a new verse each week on a card. If you are out we will seek to put it on our social media page and also email the Friday of the weekly email.
- 2) Find a **prominent** place to put the card we give out and consider writing down on other cards, putting on dash, mirrors, around the house etc. Consider laminating cards weekly.
- 3) Learn a **little** at a time – consider writing it out a few times, saying out loud and practicing with family members as you learn.
- 4) Don't get frustrated, the goal is to put God's Word in our heart.
- 5) Make your verse into a prayer.
- 6) Don't underestimate your kids, they will probably learn better and quicker than us adults will. If you have a very small child not able to memorize it, even if they are not yet talking, say it over and over to them.
- 7) Remember that it will pay **dividends**, both for you and your family.

Prayer Focus:

- **You would commit to learn (memorize) God's Word heading into 2018.**
- **Come to the altar and voice your commitment alone or with your spouse or family.**
- **Seek to have an accountability partner to help you.**