



Morning Worship

October 2021

Bible Sunday

To prepare for the service you are invited to listen to the song *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet* which can be found on You Tube through this link: https://youtu.be/Y_nwWsve2dk

OPENING PRAYER:

Lord God, we praise you for your word, speaking to us of you, our Creator.

Help us to hear your word.

Lord God, we praise you for your word, speaking to us of your promise and your plan.

Help us to hear your word.

Lord God, we praise you for Jesus speaking to us of your love and salvation.

Help us to hear your word.

Today!

READINGS:

Psalm 19.7-14 (King James Version)

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

¹²Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

¹³ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

2 Timothy 3.14 – 4.5 (The Message)

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ But don't let it faze you. Stick with what you learned and believed, sure of the integrity of your teachers—why, you took in the sacred Scriptures with your mother's milk! There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

4 ¹⁻² I can't impress this on you too strongly. God is looking over your shoulder. Christ himself is the Judge, with the final say on everyone, living and dead. He is about to break into the open with his rule, so proclaim the Message with intensity; keep on your watch. Challenge, warn, and urge your people. Don't ever quit. Just keep it simple.

³⁻⁵ You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food—catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. They'll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages. But *you*—keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God's servant.

REFLECTION:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

The text is verses 16 and 17 of the reading we heard from Timothy but this is taken from the King James Bible. It is about the Bible. Today is Bible Sunday.

In 2011, the four hundredth anniversary was celebrated of the publication of what became known as the King James Version of the Bible.

Although there were already versions of the Bible available in English, in 1603 James commissioned a new translation. The aim was to produce a version of the Bible that would be acceptable to Christians with many different views at the time in post-Reformation Britain.

Work began in 1604 and 47 scholars worked on the original Hebrew and Greek writings for seven years. The result was a text that was authorised to be read in churches: no other translation might legally be read aloud during worship.

The richness of the King James Bible's vocabulary, not heard widely in English before, had a profound effect upon the development of the English language, introducing new words and phrases that are now commonplace. It became the most widely used version in the world. It has shaped not just the Church, but our history, our laws, our language and our culture.

But it is not the only translation. There are at least 67 versions different versions available in English. Looking at the versions, there are slight differences in phrases and words used. Compare verse 16 of the Timothy text between King James and Message version. "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...*" in the King James version becomes "*Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another...*" in the Message version.

All these versions have been translated from the language in which they were written – Hebrew for Old Testament and Greek for New Testament. Often words in one language do not have the same literal meaning in other languages. The most obvious example is the word *love* which has many contexts when we use it in English. But in Greek, the language of the New Testament, there are seven words which all have the same root meaning, but each has a slightly different nuance – family love, friendship love or romantic love etc. A challenge for the translator to remain faithful to the original meaning and sense of scripture.

Whilst the King James Bible sought to provide one translation that was acceptable for public worship at the time, having several versions / translations available to us is helpful to us so we can understand the full meaning of a text.

If we look at the different versions - if we meditate, reflect and pray on each version of the same text, using a process such as *Lectio Divina* (divine reading) - then we start to gain the sense of what was in the mind of the author two thousand or more years ago. The reality of God in their mind becomes revealed in our minds. God who inspired them two millennia ago inspires us now.

This is the power of the Bible.

It reaches across the ages. It connects us with the God that inspired the writers of the scriptures and like them "*we are put together and shaped up to God's tasks.*" as the Message version says or we "*may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*" as the King James version says.

CONFESSION PRAYER

This confession prayer is based on the words of the prophet Hosea in the King James Version.

Come let us return unto the Lord:

Let us return unto the Lord.

Our goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

Let us return unto the Lord.

God desireth mercy and not sacrifice.

Let us return unto the Lord.

We have dealt treacherously against the Lord.

Let us return unto the Lord.

God will heal us. He will bind us up.

He will revive us and raise us up and we shall live in his sight.

Amen.

PRAYER:

Prayers of thanksgiving for the Bible

Translators

There are thousands of languages in our world, and still today men and women bring God's word alive across the world. We pray for all organisations and all people involved in Bible translation.

For your word, Lord, we thank you.

Printers

Print is taken for granted now, even ignored, but people researched and planned and suffered to put God's word into a book for all of us. We pray for publishers, for printing companies and media industries.

For your word, Lord, we thank you.

Bookshops

Without a bookshop we couldn't buy a Bible. We pray for local Christian bookshops and for all who distribute Bibles and religious books.

For your word, Lord, we thank you.

Churches

Each week, each day God's word is read in our churches. For centuries it was the only place it could be heard. We pray for the world, for all local churches and for our own church.

For your word, Lord, we thank you.

Readers

The Bible is given to individuals, sometimes it gathers dust, sometimes it is read. We pray for the Bible to be a living word in our lives.

For your word, Lord, we thank you. Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word.

May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths and strength to our lives.

Take us and use us, to love and serve,

in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORDS PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.

Now and for ever. Amen

CLOSING PRAYER:

God in our lives.

Thank you for the gift of Your Word

May it be a seed in our lives that bears fruit.

May we spread that Word through our lives and in our community.

Thank you God.

THE GRACE:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

And the love of God,

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.

Amen.