

“The Bible: God’s Trump Card” * 6/28/09
Psalm 119:97-112

I. “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Why should I do this?

A. It’s the Sword of the Spirit to cut away _____.

B. It’s the Sword of the Spirit to cut away _____.

C. Jesus said when I hear his words and put them into practice it’s like building a house on _____.

II. Augustine’s Story

A. What was he like early on?

B. How did he come to Christ?

C. What did he go on to do with his life?

III. In order for God’s Word to “work” in my life, I must first see it as **God’s Word**.

“And we also thank God continually because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” ~ 1 Thess.2:13

A. Nothing sucks the life out of Scripture faster than what?

1. Lowering it to the _____ of other authorities.

2. Taking other things and giving them equal _____ with the Bible.

B. What my honeysuckle did

C. What are some other things we should never make equivalent with the Bible?

A. Our spiritual _____.

B. Our _____.

C. Our _____.

D. Our _____.

IV. And The Biggest Honeysuckle Of All: _____

A. Why are traditions created?

1. Some feel that God’s Word needs to be made

_____.

2. Some form tradition to keep people from

_____.

3. Traditions give us _____ & _____.

B. When do traditions become dangerous?

“[Timothy]...from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
2 Tim.3:15-17).

“The Bible: God’s Trump Card” * 6/28/09

Psalm 119:97-112

I. *“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Why should I do this?*

A. *It’s the Sword of the Spirit to cut away unbelief.*

B. *It’s the Sword of the Spirit to cut away sin.*

C. *Jesus said when I hear his words and put them into practice it’s like building a house on rock.*

II. *Augustine’s Story*

A. *What was he like early on?*

His mother was a Christian, his father called himself a pagan. Augustine landed somewhere in the middle, dabbling in some new age spirituality with a heavy dose of philosophy. He was gifted but troubled, and he partied hard, drank profusely, played fast and loose with women, finally moved in with one, and fathered a child. It wasn’t till his thirties that he began to open his eyes to how messed up he was, living an empty life that was going nowhere fast. Sitting in a garden one day, he broke down and began to weep and cry out to the God, with an open Bible lying across the table from him.

B. *How did he come to Christ?*

“I cast myself down I know not how, under a certain fig-tree, giving full vent to my tears,” he wrote in his journal. “So was I speaking and weeping in the most bitter contrition of my heart, when, lo! I heard from a neighbouring house a voice, as of boy or girl, I know not, chanting, and oft repeating, “Take up and read; Take up and read.”...So checking the torrent of my tears, I arose; interpreting it to be no other than a command from God to open the book, and read the first chapter I should find...I seized [the book], opened, and in silence read that section on which my eyes first fell.” His eyes fell on Romans 12:13. “Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the

desires of the sinful nature.” Augustine wrote in his journal, “No further would I read; nor needed I: for instantly at the end of this sentence, by a light as it were of serenity infused into my heart, all the darkness of doubt vanished away.”

C. *What did he go on to do with his life?*

He sounds like someone from our day, but he lived sixteen-dred years ago, this Augustine was none other than the great St. Augustine, and what I read for you was from his classic book “Confessions”. He would go on to become one of the greatest Christian leaders and writers in his time. Through his leadership, he kept the church in his region safe during the dark days when Rome fell. Through his writings, he shaped the direction of Christian thought and theology for the next millennium. And it all began with a child’s voice chanting to him over and over again in Latin, “Tolle lege, tolle lege”, “Take and read”.

III. *In order for God’s Word to “work” in my life, I must first see it as God’s Word.*

<p>“And we also thank God continually because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” ~ 1 Thess.2:13</p>

A. *Nothing sucks the life out of Scripture faster than what?*

- 1. Lowering it to the standard of other authorities.*
- 2. Taking other things and giving them equal weight with the Bible.*

B. *What my honeysuckle did*

It sucked the life out of a beautiful Alberta spruce it was pushed up against.

C. *What are some other things we should never make equivalent with the Bible?*

A. *Our spiritual experiences.*

B. *Our feelings.*

C. *Our culture.*

D. *Our pastor's preaching.*

IV. *And The Biggest Honeysuckle Of All: tradition*

A. *Why are traditions created?*

1. *Some feel that God's Word needs to be made more clear.*

2. *Some form tradition to keep people from sinning.*

3. *Traditions give us comfort & community.*

B. *When do traditions become dangerous?*

Traditions in and of themselves are not a bad thing. It's part of our humanity to create traditions. Where traditions become slippery, even dangerous, is when we forget that they are traditions, and in our minds we begin to give them equal status with the Word of God. Rather than evaluate our traditions with God's Word, we make them the same, or worse yet, we place our traditions over God's Word, and frankly, this is usually how it ends up.

But that's what happens. That's how traditions are created. And before long, they grow and evolve and take on a life of their own. And this is exactly what happened over the centuries

with the authority given to the bishop in Rome. With the veneration given to the Virgin Mary. With the idea that clergy should remain celibate. With the idea of indulgences and purgatory and confession. They started as small ideas, small seeds of tradition, which gestated and grew and evolved until they became established as institutions in the faith. And the danger comes with spiritual traditions when they grow and evolve to the point where they even become more important to us than the Word of God.

“[Timothy]...from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
2 Tim.3:15-17).