

Sermon Series: “Fundamentals for Christ-filled Homes”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—10/7/2007

Title: “Using God’s Word as the Owner’s Manual” (*Word Alone*)

Text: Romans 10: 8-17

Intro.: *Ills.: It would help to read the owner’s manual – gas cap*

Theme: God wants to use Christian homes as faith incubators in which His Word is used to develop a life-long faith relationships with Jesus so that each believer participates in bringing the good news to their world.

Know God’s Word so that faith grows

- Transferring the knowledge of the faith
 1. *But how can people call on him if they have not believed in him? How can they believe in him if they have not heard his message? How can they hear if no one tells the Good News? Vs. 14*
 2. How can they know about forgiveness, the hope of the resurrection, grace, and faith unless you talk about it?
 - a. **Ills.: The Prime Meridian gives you a bearing**
 3. Understanding that a faith transfer cannot happen apart from God’s Word
 - a. *So faith comes from hearing the message, and the message that is heard is what Christ spoke. vs. 17*
 - b. That is why family devotion(wkly), Treasure Island, Wed. Family Night, are important for your child and you
 - c. *From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures. They have the power to give you wisdom so that you can be saved through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim. 3:15*
- Passing the faith on to the next generation
 1. **Ills.: An effective pass involves a skilled thrower and receiver**
 2. Memorize it! — Putting God’s word in our hearts – memorize it!
 - a. *“The Word is near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart. The message of faith we have spread.” vs. 8*
 - b. *“Your word I have hidden in mine heart, that I might not sin against You.” Psalm 119:11*
 - c. We memorize all sorts of things—why not memorize a verse a day/week—creatively build it into your life
 3. Talk about it! — making it part of your family conversation
 - a. *Take to heart these words that I give you today. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you’re at home or away, when you lie down or get up. Write them down, and tie them around your wrist, and wear them as headbands as a reminder. Deut. 6:6-8*
 - b. With the promise from God that it **will save** you and your household members (**Print vs. 9-10**)

Trust God’s Word so that faith grows

- Not ashamed to boast about it! (**Print vs. 11**)
 1. Often we are embarrassed to let any know that we are trusting in God and turning to His Word for guidance
 2. *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. Luke 9:26*
 3. Yet, God’s Word used powerfully in our life’s guidance becomes a powerful testimony to outsider looking in
 4. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16*
- Not ashamed to pray about it! (**Print vs. 12-13**)
 1. **Ills.: Not closing the deal until talk to Dad about it**
 2. Not surprised to search for, find, pray about and trust God’s guidance in His Word on a host of life issues.
 3. More than divining stick on temporary issues, it gives eternal perspective on living in secular world(*shall be saved*)

Surrender to God’s Word so that faith grows

- Surrender is all about assent — “*a satisfied customer*”
 1. Agreeing that Jesus and his good news of forgiveness has made an impact on me
- Surrendering my voice to tell the **good news**

1. **Ills.: Are you a fan of Jesus (Cub fans, Colt fans talk with passion about *their* team)**
2. **Print vs. 14-15a**
3. Witness is about “proclaiming” (telling why you believe) not “preaching” (telling what to believe)
- Surrendering your feet to go to those without Jesus (**Print verse 15b**)
 1. *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations . . .” Matt 28: 19*
 2. **Good News sharing** is all about bringing Christ to people not bringing people to Christ.
- Surrendering your agenda for another (**Print verse 16**)
 1. Motivation or continuation is not about result orientation or you will never start – you will talk yourself out of it
 2. *The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” John 3: 8*

Prime Meridian a Metaphor for the Bible

At the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, England, famous as the location of the prime meridian. It is a remarkable location, a place where you can stand with one foot in the Eastern Hemisphere and the other foot in the Western Hemisphere. As delightful as that might be, I would have to add that the prime meridian itself is not physically impressive. In fact, you would not realize it was there at all if it were not for a bold line cut across the pavement. The demarcation is, in fact, of human invention. Prior to the International Meridian Conference of 1884, each local region kept its own time, a system that, if continued, would have rendered impossible our current arrangements for trade and commerce. While the meridian is humanly derived, its relation to the stars is not, and that heavenly correspondence allows us to find our place on the map and in the world. The prime meridian came about through the work of John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, who made it his life mission to produce a proper navigational chart of the heavens, mapping the location of thousands of stars. Eventually, based on Flamsteed's work, scientists were able to help people find their position on the planet, allowing them to answer that fundamental question of philosophy and physics: Where am I? The power of the prime meridian is that it is a fixed position through which our knowledge of time and place can be understood. This is a metaphor for the effect of the Bible in human life. The Scripture is our meridian. It is the fixed position, given by God himself, through which we can understand who we are, where we are, and where we must go from here. **Kenton C. Anderson, Choosing to Preach (Zondervan, 2006), p. 58**

Romans 10:8-17

⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:

⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

¹¹As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent?

^{15b} As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

¹⁶But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"

¹⁷Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. [NIV]