

PT 522 Reformed Spirituality	7 Word
WSC / 2025	Manna

The Private Reading of the Word

The Nature of the Word

It is *alive* (Heb 4.12), *effective* (Isa 55.10; cf. 1Sam 3.19; 2Kgs 10.10; *useful* (2Tim 3.16)

Private Reading of the Word

LC 157 How is the Word of God to be read? *The holy Scriptures are to be read with an high and reverent esteem of them; with a firm persuasion that they are the very Word of God, and that he only can enable us to understand them; with desire to know, believe, and obey the will of God revealed in them; with diligence, and attention to the matter and scope of them; with meditation, application, self-denial, and prayer.*

A. Slowing down (WLC 157)

2Tim 3.16 - *All Scripture is breathed out by G. and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness*

Read it as...	Faith	Life
Students - to <i>teach</i> us		
Sinners - to <i>rebuke</i>		
Saved Sinners - to <i>correct</i>		
Soldiers - <i>train in righteousness</i>		

1. Life (*yourself*) – practice, duty, your walk
2. Faith (*teaching*) – belief, doctrine

B. Approaches

1. Meditation – Psalm 1.2; 119.97
2. Memorization - Psalm 119.11; Matt 12.35; Col 3.16

C. Methods

1. Bible Reading Plans: Quantity & Quality
2. Study Disciplines: Journals
3. Memorization Methods

The Public Hearing of the Word

Why did X Preaches in Parables? (Matt 13.11-15; Isaiah 6.9,10)

- A. Hearing – Rom 10.8-10,14-17
- B. Heart

Faith comes by Hearing

- A. Preaching is the Means (Matt 17.5; Luke 10.16; Eph 2.17; 1Pet 1.23)

Pierre Charles Marcel, *The Relevance of Preaching* - “Preaching as a means of grace functions to gather together the children of God; to give occasion for their regeneration by the Holy Spirit, to supply by the Spirit all that is needful for the conscious life of faith in mind, soul, and body; to heal, nourish, strengthen, and console believers, and to sustain them in Christian perseverance until death; to communicate all the riches and blessings of Christ; constantly to establish and deepen the communion of souls with the Father and the Son; to edify the Church & the communion of saints; to fill up the body of Christ; and to make Christ live in history.” – p.104

Canons of Dordt III/IV: Articles 11,12 - But when God accomplishes His good pleasure in the elect or works in them true conversion, He not only causes the gospel to be externally preached to them and powerfully illuminates their mind by His Holy Spirit, that they may rightly understand and discern the things of the Spirit of God; but by the efficacy of the same regenerating Spirit, pervades the inmost recesses of the man; He opens the closed, and softens the hardened heart, and circumcises that which was uncircumcised, infuses new qualities into the will, which though heretofore dead, He quickens; from being evil, disobedient, and refractory, He renders it good, obedient, and pliable; actuates and strengthens it, that like a good tree, it may bring forth the fruits of good actions.

And this is the regeneration so highly celebrated in Scripture & denominated a new creation; a resurrection from the dead, a making alive, which God works in us without our aid. But this is in no wise effected merely by the external preaching of the gospel, by moral suasion, or such a mode of operation... but it is evidently a supernatural work, most powerful, & at the same time most delightful, astonishing, mysterious, & ineffable.

- B. Some things are hard to hear (which reflects the state of our heart) – John 6.60

Ears to Hear, Hearts to Believe

- A. To hear Christ: receive his Word, as you received him
 - 1. “Receive” as a word for faith – John 1.11; Luke 10.16
 - 2. Receive his words, message, messengers – John 12.48; 1Thess 2.13; Matt 10.40
- B. Matt 13: The way to hear Christ is by attending to your heart
 - 1. The mind of the heart (Col 3.1-4; 1John 3.19.20)
 - 2. The desires of the heart (Psalm 73.25; ac 17.16)
 - 3. The will of the heart (humble, submit)
- C. If we do listen, we will be blessed (Matt 12.20; John 10.3; Matt 13.16)

Submitting to the Word, Christ

A. How should we “receive the Word”?

LC 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.

1. Receive with *eagerness*: willingly and earnestly (Jam 1.21; 1Thess 1.6)

Ac 17.11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

2. Receive in *faith* (Mt 13; Isa 55.11)

3. Receive *in season and out of season* (2Tim 4.2)

2Tim 4.3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions

4. Receive with *humility*

Jn 6.60 - his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”

The Benefits of Receiving the Word

A. Prepare

B. Listen (Lk 8.18)

1. Ready to learn and with the goal to obey (Jam 2.14,26; Jn 14.23; 1Jn 2.3; 3.18)

2. Having “ears to hear” (Mt 11.15)

Matt 13.14 - “Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “‘You will indeed hear but never understand” (Isa 6.9)

C. When we Prepare, Listen, and Respond in Faith Love & Obedience (Jer 29.13)

1. Our spiritual food (Isa 55.1,2)

2. He meets us at our point of need

3. Draw us to himself, to conform us to the son, to soothe us by Spirit