



Sunday, May 2, 2021  
Pastor Doug Phillips

## **Intro to The Most Valuable Thing**

The preface to the English Standard Version says, “This Book [is] the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.’ With these words the Moderator of the Church of Scotland hands a Bible to the new monarch in Britain’s coronation service. These words echo the King James Bible translators, who wrote in 1611: ‘God’s sacred Word...is that inestimable treasure that excelleth all the riches of the earth.’”

In many ways that is a fitting statement to read to the newly-coronated king or queen. It’s in line with what God Himself said through Moses to the people of Israel about their kings. “When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests...It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees...” (Deut. 17:18-19).

If those are words fit for a king, then they certainly ought to apply to us as well, given that in Christ we are children of the King! We would do well to give ourselves wholeheartedly to the study of this word so that we don’t turn away from God. As Pastor Doug reminded us on Sunday, how we respond to God’s word is how we respond to Him.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Psalm 119:9-16, 129-136

“The Most Valuable Thing on Earth”

Key Ideas

- 1) A right relationship with God begins with His word.
- 2) A healthy relationship with God continues by His word.
- 3) The Bible is the word of God. “What the Bible says, God says.” – Augustine
- 4) How you respond to someone’s message is how you respond to that person.
- 5) Every true thought you’ve had about God’s saving love and grace is from the Bible.
- 6) His self-disclosure should lead us to worship. His teachings should be believed. His promises should be trusted. His warnings should be heeded. His commands should be obeyed.
- 7) A spiritual autobiography moves from assent to trust to repentance.
- 8) It’s not enough that we have a good beginning with God’s word, but we must continue in it (John 8:31-32).
- 9) Genuine faith finds God’s word more compelling precisely when it is contradicted.
- 10) God’s word is active in salvation for those who believe and active in judgment for those who do not.

## Discuss

- 1) What are your thoughts and reflections after reading the passages from Psalm 119? How closely does your attitude reflect the psalmist's?
  
- 2) What are some ways that we, as evangelicals, functionally disregard God's word? Put another way, are there any areas where we say we believe God's word but behave as though we don't?
  
- 3) What are your habits of "taking in" God's word? (Sermons, Bible studies, devotional reading, etc.)
  
- 4) In point 6 above, which response is most difficult for you? Which comes most naturally?
  
- 5) How can we help one another grow in our love for God's word?