

Did God Really Say?

“You Don’t Need to Read the Bible”

September 3, 2023

As We Gather

Can we tell the difference between things that are true, and things that sound true, but really aren’t? There are in fact many commonly heard expressions today that sound genuine enough to come from God, but upon closer examination are not only false, but dangerous when taken to heart. The temptation in the Garden of Eden began with Satan seeking to stir up doubt and confusion about what God really said, “Did God really say?” The same deceptions are at work today to lead us away from God’s truth into error. In this series, we will look at lies that sound true, and the truth of God that gives hope, life and peace.

Today we focus on whether we need to read the Bible. The way to spot counterfeit currency is to be very familiar with genuine currency. The only way we can truly identify lies that sound true is to be very well grounded in God’s truth. That’s why this lie is so dangerous. On the one hand it might sound true because we don’t need to read the Bible to be saved. Neither are we saved by our biblical knowledge. But it is His Word through which His grace comes to us, His Word that transforms our minds, and empowers His transformation in our lives. We will look at several lies about God’s Word that are aimed at keeping us from reading our Bibles.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing” LSB 584

1 Faith and truth and life bestowing,
Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing,
Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, Your Word receiving,
Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving,
Shallow earth or stony ground.

2 May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing
Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing,
Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story,
Savior, may Your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold Your glory
Give us ears to hear Your Word.

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

“What a Beautiful Name”

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

Chorus

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again
You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

Chorus

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Chorus 3

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Prayer

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ!

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon

"You Don't Need to Read the Bible"

Offering

Musical Offering

"Streams of Living Water"

(Pastor Mike – piano, Heidi Newman – Violin, Erika Boudreaux – Cello)

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the chat.

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

St. John's People and Families

George & Andrea Clark
David, Kathy, Eric, Michael, & Rachael Fitzgerald
Bob & Doris Klein
James, Hailey, & Nic Regan
Jane Terra
Pete, Kathy, & Jon Coleman
Paul, Sarah, & Kaylyn Dugoni
Mandy, Dennis, & Ruby Kreps
Timothy, Tamera, Ridley, & Ezra Ramsier
Peter, Erin, Calvin, & Jordan Wolf

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

People: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction

"Thy Strong Word" LSB 578

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light
dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation,
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light
dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness,

Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light
dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost
send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

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5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou
dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias
without end!

(Please rise)
6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise thy holy Trinity!

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

Memory Verse for This Week

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the servant of
God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Sarah Bartelt
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Andrew Schweiger
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Projector Tech	Sarah Kramer
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Doris & Bob Klein
Ushers	Lisa and Soren De Young
Worship Band	Pastor Mike & Teresa Schmid, Heidi & Chris Newman

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