

# Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

*You Must be Born Again!*

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*His Word is My Delight – A  
Certain Sign of the New Birth*

*August 27, 2023*

**Sermon Text:** Psalm 119

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 119:1-24

Psa 119:16 I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.

By this time, I hope that all of us realize that many, if not most, of the people who claim to be Christians – *aren't*. Those people in the Roman Catholic “church”, for example, profess to be Christians – adamantly. Many, many millions of them – and yet the gospel they have embraced is a false one. Rome is the product of

the devil’s counterfeiting deception. Then add in all the millions who claim the name Christian and yet they belong to various apostate entities that deny Christ’s person and work. You see, for example, the “church” of England embracing and accepting the most wicked sins.

And then, to continue to travel closer to home – how many millions within the evangelical churches who profess to be Christians, aren’t? I trust you know the answer:

Mat 24:4-5 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. (5) **For many will come in My name**, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

Mat 24:23-24 "Then if anyone

says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. (24) **"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.**

2Pe 2:1-3 But false prophets also arose among the people, **just as there will also be false teachers among you**, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. (2) **Many will follow their sensuality**, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; (3) and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

The end result therefore is this:

Mat 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. (22) "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord,

Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" (23) "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

It is quite amazing how often the Bible puts these sober warnings to us. This is not a rare thing – the air of this evil world is filled with it. Satan is prowling and active, constantly sending out his deceiving servants and so polished are their methods that Jesus warns even the elect. When the Antichrist comes into his own day, the entire world will be amazed at him and even the elect will be tempted to wonder – *could this be the Lord's servant?*

It is essential then that we do not grow careless, sleeping when we are supposed to be watching. And we need to look to ourselves, asking the Lord to show us whether we really are His, or whether we have been deceived and don't belong to Him at all.

2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

How then, do we examine ourselves? What fruits are always evident in a genuine Christian? This morning, I want to point you to one of those fruits which will be present when a person has been born again through faith in Christ. Where this fruit is absent, Christ is absent.

**This test is simply this – *Do I love and delight in the Word of God?***

### A Radical Change

What does the Lord tell us in respect to our attitude toward His Word *when we were still dead in trespasses and sins*? Well, here it is –

Rom 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

*Hostility. A settled hatred and detestation.* And notice here that God's Law and GOD are equated. To be hostile to God's Law is to be hostile to God.

1Co 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Rom 7:8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.

When we were alienated from the Lord, dead in our sin, we hated Him and we hated His Word. His Word was foolishness to us and whenever it came to us, we rebelled against it and broke the Law. That was our condition. And if you are not in Christ this morning, if you have not been born again, that is still your condition no matter how fine a person you perceive yourself to be. Lest anyone try to find some wiggle room here and insist that

surely the thing is not as grim as that, consider-

Eph 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (3) **among whom we all once lived** in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**

*Like the rest of mankind.* No exceptions. We ALL once lived in this evil, and once more we must be soberly warned – if anyone is deceived about their standing before God, insisting “all is good,” such a person is still a child of wrath. A person, that is, born under the wrath and condemnation of God. *Like the rest of mankind.* “Oh, surely, I am not as bad as that other fellow!” *Like the rest of mankind.* “But I wasn’t born into some ignorant, idol-worshipping family.” *Like the rest of mankind.*

The thing is universal – this thing we call *total depravity*. You were a servant and slave of Satan – and if you are not in Christ today, you remain a servant of Satan. “*Following the prince of the power of the air.*” And what characterizes the sinner? This: *he or she is a son of disobedience.*” The sinner’s nature, YOUR nature if you are not born again, is to be disobedient to the Word of God. The sinner is a Satan follower – *following the prince of the power of the air.*

THAT is the sinner. That is man in his natural nature the moment he enters this life. And he remains in that condemned condition as long as he is not born again through faith in Christ.

What must happen then? *A radical change must take place, just as it took place in the Apostle Paul on that Damascus Road.* Saul of Tarsus, though he would deny it with a vengeance, *hated God’s Law.* He never kept one single commandment of God. He was blind to it – until that day when his eyes were opened by the Holy Spirit and he came to see that *the*

*law of God is spiritual. It's requirements go right to the heart. It must be loved and obeyed from the heart, not out of external compulsion or threat of punishment.*

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, **but only faith working through love.**

NOTE: In this increasingly evil world, if you stand for God's Law, if you love His Word and therefore love Him, you are going to be hated. So deep is this hatred in the sinner that he or she will even hate their own children should those children turn to Christ. Next Sunday I intend to speak to you all about Daniel in the lions' den and how that same wicked persecution is happening this very day at the highest levels in our nation.

**How can we know, then, if we are really born again? *We can know because a radical change inevitably takes place when Christ regenerates the sinner's heart and mind. And one of the chief radical***

**changes is the one who once hated God's Word now loves it.**

Do you love God's Word this morning – or do you hate it? Are you fed by it and you love its taste, is it sweeter than honey to you – or is it boring and even putrid to you? Make no mistake here, someone can hate God's Word by simply ignoring it or by twisting it so that its taste is palatable to the flesh. Where are you in this regard this morning?

Listen to David tell us over and over and over how he loves the Word of God –

Psa 119:25-64 My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word! (26) When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes! (27) Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works. (28) My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word! (29) Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!

(30) I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your rules before me. (31) I cling to your testimonies, O LORD; let me not be put to shame! (32) I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!

(33) Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. (34) Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

(35) Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

(36) Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!

(37) Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. (38) Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared. (39) Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good.

(40) Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!

(41) Let your steadfast love come

to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise; (42) then shall **I have an answer for him who taunts me**, for I trust in your word. (43) And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your rules. (44) I will keep your law continually, forever and ever, (45) and I shall walk in a wide place, for I have sought your precepts. (46) I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame, (47) for I find my delight in your commandments, which I love. (48) I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

(49) Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. (50) This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. (51) **The insolent utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law.** (52) When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort, O LORD. (53) Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your law. (54) Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my

sojourning. (55) I remember your name in the night, O LORD, and keep your law. (56) This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts.

(57) The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words. (58) I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise. (59) When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; (60) I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments. (61) Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law. (62) At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules. (63) **I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.** (64) The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!

This entire Psalm, all 176 verses of it – declares one theme: The glory of the Word of God and David’s love for it, and thus His love for the Lord Himself. He prays and pleads with the Lord to open his eyes to God’s Word, to show him the

treasures in it, and to enable him to obey it.

And you see another related theme repeated here as well – *that the Word of God is a great divider of men. It separates the wicked from the righteous. The righteous love one another and are hated by the wicked.*

One of the primary reasons I cannot conclude that my parents were Christians, as they would claim to be if you pressed them (they were church members and we went to church on Sundays fairly regularly though in their later years they ceased doing so) – but one of the primary reasons I have no assurance they were born again is *that they would not separate from those who hated God’s Word and thus who hated God.*

I grew up being in regular company with blasphemers. Aunts and uncles and cousins who were ungodly, who cursed with the Lord’s name as a course of their conversations, who loved vile things, and who mocked anyone who loved the Lord. Many, many,

many Saturday evenings were spent in the company of this crowd. In contrast, look again at what David – a man who loved the Lord and loved His Word – says:

**I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.**

If we are born again, we love those who love God's Word and obey it. These are who our companions will be. It is why we have scriptures like this:

1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

What is that light? It is the Word of God –

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Parents, grandparents, the best thing you can do for your children and grandchildren and great grandchildren is to separate from

the wicked, from those who hate God's Word. And yet there are very few professing Christians who are willing to do this, especially if the wicked in question are family members. As I said, this was one of the most disobedient and harmful sins my parents walked in. As a result, I grew up around all kinds of perversions and blasphemies and it was only the unmerited grace of God that I was saved out of it. Even in later years my parents held me in derision because I would not be a companion to those wicked relatives. Verla experienced the very same persecution.

I say all of this so that we may examine ourselves as we live in a world filled with hatred for God's Word and seducing deceptions which would demand that we turn from walking in it ourselves.

The History of the World is the History of Hating God's Word

History is filled with wars. Has there ever been a day when there was not some war raging on this planet? But there is another war that rages every single moment of



every day of every year – and that is the war against the Word of God.

Jer 36:21-24 Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary. And Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. (22) It was the ninth month, and the king was sitting in the winter house, and there was a fire burning in the fire pot before him. (23) As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a knife and throw them into the fire in the fire pot, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the fire pot. (24) Yet neither the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words was afraid, nor did they tear their garments.

Did this evil king's efforts to destroy and stamp out God's Word succeed? Of course not – God's Word can never be destroyed. Another scroll was published and this wicked ruler was destroyed. History is largely the story of man, energized by Satan, fighting a war against the Word of God and

seeking to destroy it. Study the history of the Protestant Reformation for instance. What was Rome always trying to do (and continues to do today)? Destroy the Bible. Keep the Bible out of the hands of people because wherever God's Word went, Rome was exposed for what she is. Anyone who faithfully preached the Word of God was often exiled or murdered.

Rev 1:9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Why was Jesus crucified? Because he WAS the Word of God incarnate! He had to be silenced! But it didn't work, and though we live in an increasingly evil world that is still trying to eliminate the Bible and all who preach it, none can or will succeed.

The history of the world is and always has been the story of Satan and his servants trying to destroy

the Word of God...right from the very beginning –

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God actually say**, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

### God’s True Church Loves His Word

You see this then? Everyone without exception who is truly born again *loves the Word of God*. To examine ourselves to see if we are regenerated by God’s Spirit, we can put this test to ourselves.

Now, don’t be deceived in this. There are many professing Christians who know a lot of facts about the Bible. Who can quote verses and appear to love the Bible. The Pharisees are still with us today. But when such people are confronted with the real message and truths of God’s Word, the fangs come out. It turns out what they really love is distortions of

God’s Word – a kind of idol created by them. You see it here:

Mar 7:5-9 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” (6) And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; (7) in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

(8) You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” (9) And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!

May the Lord make His Word sweeter than honey to us and more valuable in our estimation than piles of the purest gold. And may He use this test as a means to show anyone still dead in their sins their desperate need to call upon Him for mercy and salvation in Jesus Christ.