

RESOURCE 5

SELECTED PASSAGES FOR READERS

The Power of the Word

Isaiah 55:10-11

Yet just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
And do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
Giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,

So shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
It shall not return to me empty,
but shall do what pleases me,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Now when the seventh month came, the whole people gathered as one in the square in front of the Water Gate, and they called upon Ezra the scribe to bring forth the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

On the first day of the seventh month, therefore, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand.

In the square in front of the Water Gate, Ezra read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion.

Ezra opened the scroll so that all the people might see it, for he was standing higher than any of the people. When he opened it, all the people stood.

Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, "Amen, amen!" Then they knelt

down and bowed before the LORD, their faces to the ground.

Ezra read clearly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read.

Then Nehemiah, that is, the governor, and Ezra the priest-scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: "Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not lament, do not weep!"—for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law.

He continued: "Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD is your strength!"

2 Timothy 4:1-5

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths.

But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.

1 John 1:1-4

What was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we looked upon
and touched with our hands
concerns the Word of life—

for the life was made visible;
we have seen it and testify to it

and proclaim to you the eternal life
that was with the Father and was made
visible to us—

what we have seen and heard
we proclaim now to you,
so that you too may have fellowship with us;
for our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

We are writing this so that our joy may be
complete.

Matthew 5:14-19

You are the light of the world. A city set
on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it
under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand,
where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify
your heavenly Father.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish
the law or the prophets. I have come not to
abolish but to fulfill.

Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth
pass away, not the smallest letter or the

smallest part of a letter will pass from the
law, until all things have taken place.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the
least of these commandments and teaches
others to do so will be called least in the
kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and
teaches these commandments will be called
greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

John 7:14-18

When the feast was already half over, Jesus
went up into the temple area and began to
teach.

The Jews were amazed and said, “How does
he know scripture without having studied?”

Jesus answered them and said, “My teach-
ing is not my own but is from the one who
sent me.

Whoever chooses to do his will* shall know
whether my teaching is from God or whether
I speak on my own.

Whoever speaks on his own seeks his
own glory, but whoever seeks the glory of
the one who sent him is truthful, and there
is no wrong in him.