

Sermon series: New Year's 2020
Sermon title: **Beavers for the Bible**
Scripture: Psalm 63:1-8
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
December 29, 2019
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Well, one of the most powerful learning skills is review. And yet it is the most neglected of the teaching skills used in class. We all want to know something new. It's hard to talk about things that we've talked about before and think that we know. Well, we want to review a bit. I need to review myself.

A New Year is upon us and I am going to spend this week and the next 3 Sundays -reminding, recapping and repackaging our **Church Vision** in a way to help us refocus at the beginning of the year.

Let's pray.

Our church vision is quite simple. We want to be a people who **BEHOLD** God, **BELONG** to one another by building one another up and we want to **BE SENT** as witnesses to our family, neighbors, co-workers and friends.

Behold.

Belong.

Be Sent.

I can't think of a better thing to encourage us in than to **BEHOLD** God more this next year- to encourage us in Bible reading in 2020.

Some of you may find that you can't get over the hump spiritually. Some of you may feel like you have hit a wall in your spiritual walk!

Well, if you want to grow in your faith and **BEHOLD God**; get to know God....then you must learn to devour the Bible. You must consistently eat Bible. You must marinate in the Scriptures. You must consume the milk of the word like an infant, as 1st Peters says.

But today, I want to say the same thing from a different angle. I want to encourage us to become **BEAVERS FOR THE BIBLE.**

A beaver is an interesting creature. They live in many places around the world, mostly in the USA and Europe.

What do we know about Beavers?

- Beavers work slowly but consistently and accomplish a lot.
- Beavers are excellent engineers. They can build a solid dam that changes the entire ecosystem.
- Only until recently, most people considered them pests and a nuisance. But now we know that they sustain the ecosystem and life buds where they build their dams.

- Beavers devour wood with their sharp teeth which are made partly of iron. They can eat a tree like we eat a pineapple bun. They devour wood to get at the sweet layer under the bark.

Now, this sermon isn't about beavers. We want to be like beavers though. We want to work slowly everyday to get at that sweet pulp under the cover and we want to devour it. But our wood is the Bible; the word of God.

Matthew 4:4

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Psalm 63

“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. 2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. 3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. 4 So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. 5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, 6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;”

The word of God is the Christian's food.

We will 'behold his power and glory' as we are 'satisfied as with fat and rich food' as we spend time with God.

Colossians chapter 3 gives us another picture of what we want to be. There are numerous ways to express it. We could say, 'Behold God.'
We could say, 'be satisfied with the fat and rich food of the word.'
We could say, 'be a beaver for the Bible.'
Colossians explains it by saying, "Let the word dwell in you richly."

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thanksgiving in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The first phrase is, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."

What does it mean?

We need to say first off, that the YOU is plural and not singular. It is 'you all' or 'you guys' or 'y'all'
He's writing to a church, a group of believers.

The **WORD OF CHRIST** here means the message about Jesus...we could say the gospel.

But, since the whole Bible is the message about Jesus and the coming of his Kingdom, it isn't a stretch to say that it means THE BIBLE.

He says that the Bible needs to **DWELL** in our church richly. There is no word "Let" in the original language. The action is on the word DWELL.

The Bible is to reside in our church.

The Bible is to find a home in our church.

The Bible is to settle down in our church.

The word **RICHLY** accentuates this. It means abundant and plentifully.

It's supposed to 'fill the house' not just reside on the shelf or the nightstand.

As a church, the Bible should dwell in us richly. It shouldn't be a dietary supplement but it should be our food.

How does the church (as a whole) become a people whom the Bible dwells in richly?

Answer: By each and every person *individual* in the church...dwelling in the Word themselves and helping each other.

Look what it says in the later part of the verse....

TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER IN ALL WISDOM.

Teaching here is the *positive* instruction of each other in Biblical truth.

Admonishing is *negative*...it means warning each other the danger of straying from the truth. Checking each other. Cautioning each other.

Here's a summary of this verse as I have translated and dissected it:

“So, as a church...be saturated in the Word. Teach the truth to one another and warn one another not to stray from the truth...even SINGING (psalms, hymns and spiritual songs) to one another about the Word, about Jesus and songs prompted by the Spirit.... —and you can't do this corporately unless you do it individually...Do both. In fact, in everything you do, you should be Christ focused and thankful.”

Therefore, I want to encourage all of us as individuals in 2020 to **BEHOLD God** by being beavers for the Bible.

Feed your affections for Christ this year. Don't starve your soul and your affections for Jesus by chewing on other things. Do the hard labor, like a beaver, where you chew on the Bible daily and purposefully.

The world, the flesh and the devil will work overtime this year to get you and I to neglect the Bible.

They will war against our souls by trying to get us to not chew. But the Bible promises great things if we will devour his word.

Psalm 1 says, “**Blessed is the man..who delights in the law of the LORD and on his law meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all he does he prospers.**”

Or **Psalm 19**, “**The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.**”

Psalm 119:9, “**How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.**”

Psalm 119:103, “**How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.**”

Psalm 119:105, “**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**”

Psalm 119:111, “**Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.**”

Psalm 119:127, “Therefore, I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold.

Psalm 119:162, “I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil {treasure}.”

Psalm 119:72, “the law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”

We have some Bible reading plans available for you today. We all need a plan.

There is one that has you reading the whole Bible in a year. It takes about 15 minutes a day and you get 5 days off per month.

The other one is the New Testament. It takes 5 minutes a day and you read 5 days a week.

Oh, what hard work it is, but it is rewarding to your soul.

We all need help...get help from each other.

As a church, let's be saturated in the Word this year both as a whole, as small groups and as individuals. Let's teach each other, caution each other, sing the Bible to each other with thankful hearts.... and let's be Jesus-focused in everything we do.

I hope that you'll join us on this quest. If there is any way I can help you or encourage you in Bible reading...it

would be my great joy to help you break open the treasure chest of God's word in 2020.

Let me give you some tips:

1. Get some help!

Find a partner in 2020 to help admonish you.

Find a small group in 2020 where you can teach and admonish one another in all wisdom. Singing and being thankful together. We all need this. I need help, too. Tim Kwan and I meet every week and he will hold me accountable this year to being a beaver for the Bible.

2. Don't worry about it if you get behind.

I'm almost always catching up. Just keep going, even if it takes you 3 years. You will get discouraged. Don't quit. In fact, stop and go deep when God is showing you something. Then catch up.

3. Set a time. Set a place. Treat it like a meeting with a person, cause that's what it is! You have a meeting each morning or evening with God.

You should put it in your calendar- 7:00am Behold the God of the universe! You wouldn't break an appointment with a person, so schedule it and stick to it.

4. Pray before you read. 'I.O.U.S'

Incline my heart to your testimonies and not to selfish gain. Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things and give me life in your ways. {Psalm 119: 36-37}

Open my eyes that I might behold wonderful things in your law.

{Psalm 119:18}

Unite my heart to fear your name {Psalm 86:11}

Satisfy me in the morning with your unfailing love that I may rejoice and be glad all my days. {Psalm 90:14}

Do you want to be changed?

Do you want to be more like Christ.

BEHOLD God daily by being a beaver for the Bible.

Chew.

Drink.

Eat.

Marinate.

We become like what we BEHOLD!

2 Corinthians 3:16-18.

16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

We become like what we BEHOLD!

We become what we hum.

Lastly, let me know how I can help you.

There's nothing I would like more than to sit down with you and help you in any way I can to be a beaver for the Bible in 2020; to help you BEHOLD God more in 2020 than you ever have before.