

The Word of God Reading Us Derrick Scott III

It's been a year since I have not had to read textbooks for a grade. I have always hated reading. But since graduation, I have read more books than ever before. Above all, I love reading the Bible. I have a bunch of different versions and lots of study tools. I am sure you can relate! But I love the Word because it just speaks to me at times, as if the words were jumping off the pages.

Sometimes, in this twenty-something life, I feel so depleted. But whenever I open the Word and read things like Psalm 87:7 which says 'All my fountains are in You'; I can just sense life coming back into me.

There have been times when I have been completely shattered by life and stuff going on in my world. I then open the Word and I read the New Testament writers who always had this forward looking perspective on the future, no matter what was happening to them. For Paul, Peter and John, what was coming was always better than what was – so inspiring.

There are so many reasons that I love the Word. But the most compelling reason for us as college students and young adults to regularly read the Word maybe that it is more than a bunch of stories about people lived some eons ago. The stories in the Bible are our stories. We see ourselves in the lives of the people in the Word of God. And we walk away challenged, encouraged, strengthened, instructed and renewed.

As we move closer to Easter, now is a great time to raise the value of the Word of God in our lives. Yeah, you can read anything to get advise or self help. But there is something unbelievably special about the Word. There is something special about a manuscript that would cause people to stand for almost half a day – just to listen to it. There is something special about a book that in some Christian traditions they actually kiss the Word as it is presented to God's people. Jesus tells us that 'Man cannot live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes out of God's mouth.'

The truth is that as you dig into the Word of God. You began to see yourself. If you really take Paul's encouragement to 'let the Word of Christ dwell in your richly' (Col.3:16), you will find that these words began to come back on you at random moments. Rob Bell, in his book, *Velvet Elvis* says that these words 'work on us. We started out reading them, but they end up reading us.'(p.90)

Ephesians 1 has been like that. In v. 3 we are told that we have been given every 'spiritual blessing in Christ'. And I have let that phrase invade my scarcity and my depravity. That every unseen thing that I need, I already have in Christ. You see, the Word of God is more than words on a page. But they are actually the words that shape our very lives.

So what would it be like if the next time you decided to read the Bible, you did something different? Instead of being concerned with how much you were reading, you tried letting the Word of God read you. You let the words on the pages look into your life. What would happen if Jesus was the first word of your story – not your name, your job, your degree, your interest – but the beginning of your story was Jesus? What if your life story was shaped and formed by the very words that came from the mouth of God.

I encourage you to read the Word of God in a new and fresh way. Let it get into your world and begin to speak new life and destiny. As you do this, you will find the voice of God easier to hear. Jump into the Word today and see what great adventure God has in store for you.

