

The Work of the Ministry

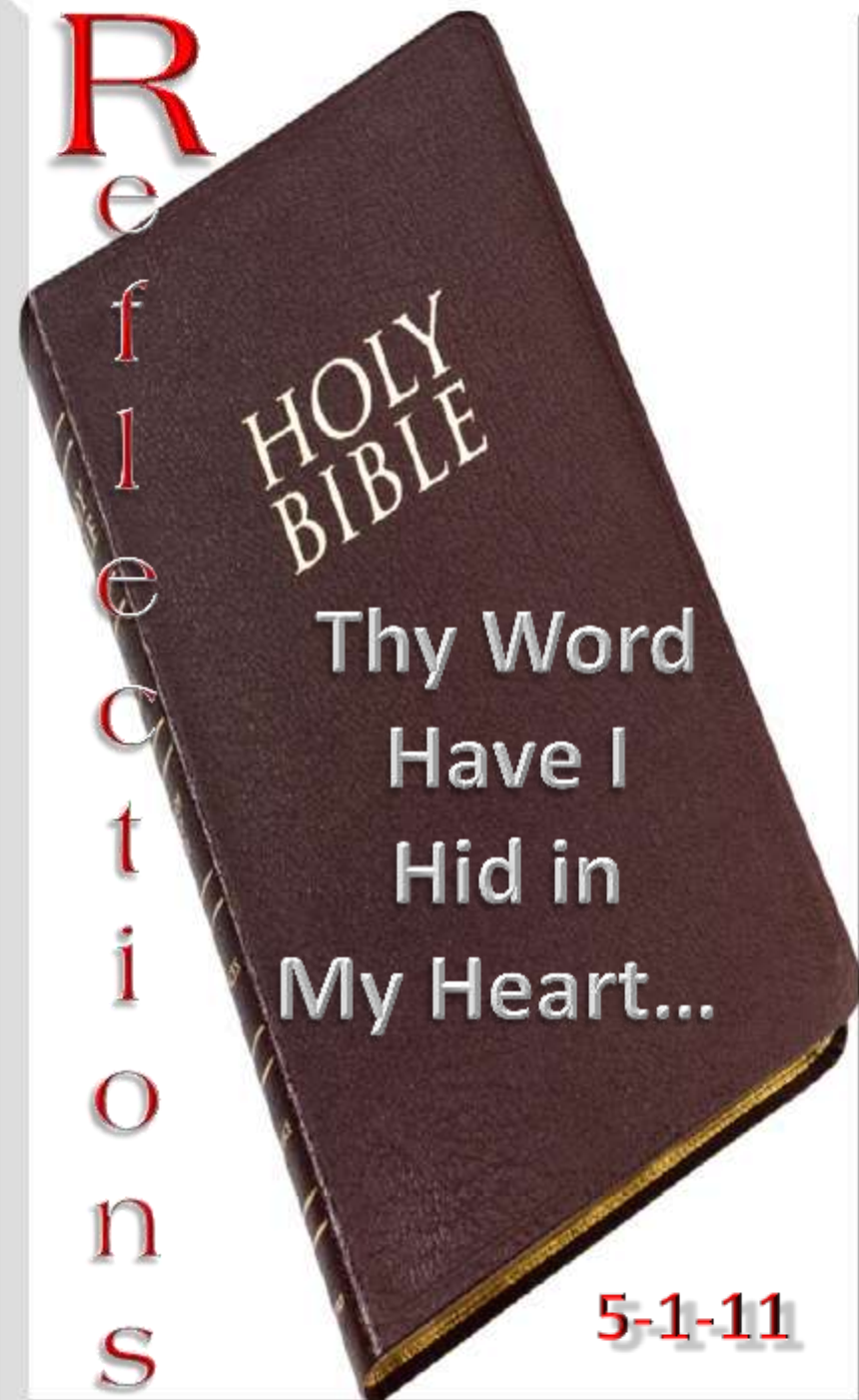
1. **Who** carries the message?
 - a. Ephesians 4:11-13
 - b. Matthew 28: 18-20

2. **How** do we prepare?
 - a. 2 Timothy 2:15
 - b. Psalm 119:11

3. **The Walk** of our lives speaks volumes.
 - a. Ephesians 4:1-3
 - b. Romans 12:1-2
 - c. Galatians 5: 25

4. **Called to Serve** one another.
 - a. Matthew 20:26-28
 - b. Galatians 5:13-14

5. **Sent** by Jesus to the harvest, but not alone.
 - a. Luke 10:2
 - b. John 20:21
 - c. John 14:26





Reflections

What if every Bible was confiscated? Would you have enough of it memorized to share it with others?

David, in Psalm 119, records his reflections on learning to walk in righteousness and in doing so gives us a profound declaration regarding God's Word and how one must walk in its depth and understanding. *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! (Psalm 119:9-11 NKJ)* The question that forms the basis for David's understanding of the reason we are to be in the Word of God is answered quite clearly. How can a young man or woman cleanse their way? By taking heed of the Word of God.

What might be the result if all our young men and women were not only well versed in Scripture, but walked according to what it teaches? Would we not see fewer of our kids walk away from the Church and Jesus? Would we not see fewer of them falling into the trap of immoral behavior. Would we not see fewer of them being captured by the vain philosophies so prevalent in our society? The inevitable conclusion has to be a resounding yes. One walking in the Word, filled with the Spirit, and serving Jesus with their thoughts and behaviors, will see and avoid the traps set by the enemy to plunder their lives.

Verse 11 gives us something else to build our own walk upon; the hiding of God's Word in our hearts. A simple way of describing the process by which we hide His Word in our heart is that one must read, meditate on, and memorize the Scriptures. In doing so, we fill our hearts and minds with the purifying power of God's message of love and righteousness given in His Word. For the Church to walk in triumph in a dark world where men have rejected God, have embraced wickedness, and blaspheme His name, requires that His people know His Word. It is not enough to just go to church, we must be the church. We must hunger for His Word that we might walk in righteousness and share His gospel with those around us. To hide His Word in our hearts is more than just memorizing a lot of verses, it also requires that we understand that it is God's Word. The writer of Hebrews tells us that God's Word is not just

mere words but is the very power of God that reveals to us our Savior and exposes our sin even to the very thoughts and intents of our heart. *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJ)*

This Word of God that is hidden in our hearts tells us that Jesus has promised He would send the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. The Spirit's ministry is to draw men to the Savior by exposing their sin and need for redemption. He will witness to our spirit that we are indeed God's children, and He will convict us when our lives do not express God's righteousness. He will remind us that the enemy has been defeated lest we fall prey to his lies and He will teach us the depth of the Word that we hide in our hearts. We must learn to walk in the Spirit to be the witness of Jesus we are called to be in this world.

Paul tells the Galatian church that they must walk in the Spirit in order to walk worthy of the calling that God has called them to walk. *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16 NKJ)* To overcome the flesh that causes us so much grief, we too must learn to walk in the Spirit. By choosing to walk in the Spirit we can allow Him to help us as we begin to know Christ, in a greater intimacy through His Word, and then we can, more effectively, share Him with others without fear. A life lived in the Spirit enables our life to glorify God in the sight of those around us and our life then becomes part of our ministry to the lost. *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16 NKJ)*

When we consider these challenges, we must evaluate our own walk. Are we hiding His Word in our hearts and minds? Do we spend time meditating on what the Holy Spirit teaches us about Jesus in the Word? Are we allowing His Word to cleanse our ways? Are we indeed seeing our lives as testimonies to others because of the impact of God's Word in our thinking and behaviors? Will others see Jesus in us? Will our life reflect the light of Jesus to those with whom we share our jobs? Let's hide His word in our hearts that we might not sin against our Lord. Being the Church is much more powerful if we walk in His Word. **Pastor Doug**