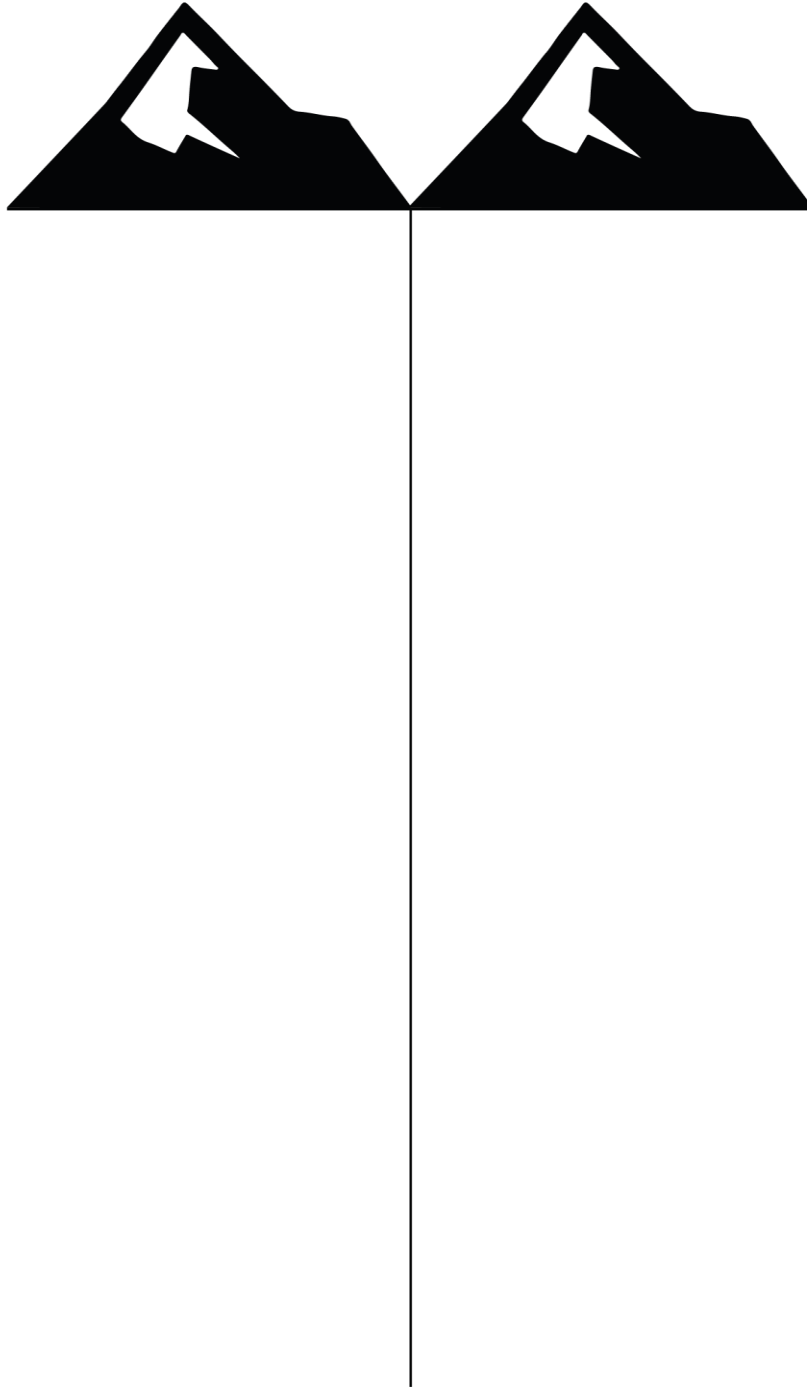


Jesus > Legalism

A tale of 2 mountains:

Hebrews 12:18-29, Exodus 19:1-25, Mark 5:21-43



Food for Thought for the week of July 8, 2018
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. We heard this weekend that we need to give attention to God's Word. The following passages all deal with the positive impact the Word can have in our lives when we are receptive to it. Make a list of all the things you can find that are benefits of being receptive to God's Word.

Proverbs 2:1-10 - *My son, if you accept my words*

and store up my commands within you,
² *turning your ear to wisdom*
and applying your heart to understanding—
³ *indeed, if you call out for insight*
and cry aloud for understanding,
⁴ *and if you look for it as for silver*
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
⁵ *then you will understand the fear of the LORD*
and find the knowledge of God.
⁶ *For the LORD gives wisdom;*
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
⁷ *He holds success in store for the upright,*
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
⁸ *for he guards the course of the just*
and protects the way of his faithful ones.
⁹ *Then you will understand what is right and just*
and fair—every good path.
¹⁰ *For wisdom will enter your heart,*
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

Psalm 1:1-3 - *Blessed is the one*

who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
² *but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,*
and who meditates on his law day and night.
³ *That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,*
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 - *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,*¹⁵ *and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*¹⁶ *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*¹⁷ *so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Which of these benefits have you experienced in your life?

Which of these benefits of interacting with and obeying the Bible is most motivational to you?

What changes could you make to experience even more of these benefits?

2. We are called to give attention to God's Word because we can hear his voice and instruction throughout the pages of the Bible anytime we want to listen. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and 171 of its 176 verses refer to God's Word, law, commands, statutes and precepts. How do the selected verses below impact your understanding of, and relationship with, God's Word?

Psalm 119:9-16 - *How can a young person stay on the path of purity?*

By living according to your word.
¹⁰ *I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.*
¹¹ *I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.*
¹² *Praise be to you, LORD;
teach me your decrees.*
¹³ *With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.*
¹⁴ *I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.*
¹⁵ *I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.*
¹⁶ *I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.*

Psalm 119:57-60 - *You are my portion, LORD;*

I have promised to obey your words.
⁵⁸ *I have sought your face with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.*
⁵⁹ *I have considered my ways
and have turned my steps to your statutes.*
⁶⁰ *I will hasten and not delay
to obey your commands.*

Psalm 119:171-176 - *May my lips overflow with praise,*

for you teach me your decrees.
¹⁷² *May my tongue sing of your word,
for all your commands are righteous.*
¹⁷³ *May your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.*
¹⁷⁴ *I long for your salvation, LORD,
and your law gives me delight.*
¹⁷⁵ *Let me live that I may praise you,
and may your laws sustain me.*
¹⁷⁶ *I have strayed like a lost sheep.
Seek your servant,
for I have not forgotten your commands.*

How could you take another step toward using God's Word as a "light for your path"?