

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
May 20th 2020
Romans 5:1 to 5
Is God's Word Relevant?

There was a bit of a cartoon joke going around recently. Maybe you've seen it or maybe not. One character states the following. "I don't read the Bible. It's full of outdated ideas that don't matter today." Another character says "It tells you to wash your hands, cook your food thoroughly, and don't eat bats." To this the first character responds with a deer in the headlights look. With all that's going on today concerning our health and safety we seem to think we're developing new answers to our many concerns. The Bible however has addressed all the needs of life thousands of years ago. If you pay any attention at all to the news, the conversations of people you know, or what you read on social media you become quickly aware of the fears, stresses and states of confusion that pervade our society. The air is full of lies, misinformation and bickering over politics, science and opinions. Dare we mention religion? It's a mixed jumble of 'believe whatever you want' as long as it's not Jesus. His name spoken in vain or curse is tolerated by most but if you speak of Him lovingly or respectfully you will draw the ire of your listeners. If you worship or pray to Him it will cost you friendships. (Matthew 5:11-12, John 15:20) Unless of course you find you are among fellow believers. The joy and oneness is instant even upon making new christian friends. (Phillipians 1:27) The Christian today has what the world desperately needs but belligerently rejects. Are the problems of today real? Oh yes! Are the answers legitimately viable! Maybe, but it depends which news agency you follow.(Ephesians 4:14) Is there an answer we can trust? Yes! We can choose to trust Jesus Christ and His Holy Word. When we do He proves Himself repeatedly through His miraculous intervention in our lives and the sound guidance provided in His Word. (Proverbs 3:5)

Considering the great needs existing in the unbelieving world today, the answers found in today's text alone can be life changing to the open mind and heart. Please pause to read today's passage in Roman's 5:1-5. The world will die in sin but they can be justified or considered sinless simply by applying faith in Christ. They are rejecting the God that they misunderstand but they can make peace or reconciliation with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ. They question God's existence but can enjoy direct access to Him through Christ. When they claim God does not care He offers grace. They live hopeless lives looking forward to nothing but shallow personal accomplishment when that could be replaced by rejoicing. (Matthew 16:25-26) What do people rejoice over today? Even the best things in life are transient and fleeting. (James 4: 14) We however rejoice in true hope; The full knowledge and thrilling expectation of an eternity in glory. A glory deserved only by God but benevolently shared with us and again all because we simply said yes to His offer of salvation bought through the blood of His Son. (Ephesians 3:5-6) Think again of the pressures this world places on the populace. God tells us that those very pressures are worthy of glory because they are sent our way for a purpose. The so-called tribulations the world fears can be transformed into patience, experience and hope. (James 1:2-4) Three things the world so desperately misses and misunderstands. Don't forget, we as disciples of Christ will live on in a new kingdom and a new heaven and earth. Our skills are being developed and honed so we can perform the Lord's Will as we are called to

duty during His future reign. (2 Peter 1:10-11) Something only a Christian can enjoy is the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. We alone exist with a perfect sense of His eternal fellowship, constant guidance and deep joyful presence affirming and confirming our very souls. Finally and most importantly, we through the power of the Holy Ghost learn and grow in the one attribute found only in God and existing nowhere outside of Him. Love! The world's love, even in its best display, falls woefully short of what we live in and in which we have our being. (1John 4:7-11) In the KJV we are told this love is 'shed abroad' in us. The Greek here uses the word ekcheo which is to pour forth or gush. We are literally experiencing God's love being poured into us and if we allow, we ourselves will gush out that love upon others. Is the bible relevant? God's Word answers the deepest needs our neighbors have as no other source can provide. Share that love boldly and let Jesus gush!