

**“The Word at Work in You” – 1 Thess 2:13-16**

**Pastor Bill Schlonecker – June 24, 2018**

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of the grass. The grass withers and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” ~ 1 Peter 1:25 (cf. Isaiah 40:8)

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Heaven is My throne and earth is My footstool... but this is the one to whom I look / I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word.’” ~ Isaiah 66:1ff

Our text this morning informs us how we are to respond to God’s Word:

**1-We respond to God’s Word appropriately when we accept it as from God Himself...thus altogether true and enduring** – God quickens our minds to accept and understand His Word

...Revelation = the act whereby God discloses to man what we would otherwise not know (2 Peter 1:20). Revelation is complete!

...Inspiration = by supernatural means, the Holy Spirit carried along the biblical writers so that...the words they recorded were the exact words of God.

...Illumination = the Spirit of God giving understanding to our hearts

**2-We respond to God’s Word appropriately when we cherish it as the treasure that it is...thus joy-producing even in affliction** – God opens our hearts to embrace His Word.

**3-We respond to God’s Word appropriately when we obey it as the authority that it is...thus life-changing** – God moves our wills to apply His Word to life.

...Isaiah 55:10-11 – in place of thorns shall come cypress; in place of brier shall come the myrtle. God’s Word transforms the heart and produces NEW and GOOD fruit in place of the fleshly deeds of the heart.

...Matthew 7:24-27 – two builders – one wise, one foolish – BOTH HEARD the Word of God, but only ONE PUT IT INTO PRACTICE!

**Why don’t we put it into practice?**

1) We have blind spots we simply cannot see on our own; 2) We do not really trust it and live by our feelings rather than what has been revealed in God’s Word; 3) We do not treasure His Word over our personal pursuit of happiness.