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GOD'S WORD IS SURE

(episode 002)

theme: God's word is sure. **scripture:** II Peter 1:17-21 **quote:** "And so we have the prophetic word made more sure...for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." II Peter 1:19a,21. **summary:** Nit Whitly travels to 1st Century Jerusalem to interview the Apostle Peter. We find Peter in the Temple boldly proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has had plenty of first-hand experiences that could convince him of the truth of what he's proclaiming. But his confidence in the message of the cross is not based primarily in his experiences, but rather in the word of God. He tells us that it is more certain and dependable than all the experiences in the world because it was not written by the will of man, but by men led by the Holy Spirit.

THE BIBLE

(episode 018)

theme: The Bible is God's word spoken to men **scripture:** II Timothy 3:16; Psalm 19:7; Psalm 119:89,90; Hebrews 4:12,13 **quote:** "All Scripture is inspired by God." II Timothy 3:16a **summary:** The Bible is the most unique book ever written in the history of mankind. Whatever it says can be depended upon to be true because its author is perfect. God, through the Holy Spirit, directed and inspired the men who physically wrote the various books of the Bible. It is this connection to God that makes it infallible (without error).

For this episode Nit Whitly conducts a very different kind of interview. Rather than interviewing a person he interviews the Bible itself. We come to see that not only is the Bible true, but its words have the power to speak to the deep recesses of our hearts and bring us new life.

STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED

(episode 026)

theme: The study of God's word is essential for the Christian life **scripture:** II Timothy 3:16 **quote:** "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;" II Timothy 3:16 **summary:** Timothy has just received a letter from the Apostle Paul. Nit Whitly joins Timothy to get some insight into what Paul wrote. In the letter, Paul encourages Timothy (and us as well) to study God's word. This is why:

First of all, it is inspired by God. So the words are not simply the words of men, but they are the very words of God.

Secondly, studying God's word is very valuable to us. It teaches us about God, His character and His actions. It teaches us about right and wrong, what things are good for us and what things are bad for us.

It corrects us when we are wrong. Before we take any action or even speak any word we should test it against the word of God to see if God would approve of it or not. It is a good tool to train us to live holy lives. Not everything God says is easy to do, but it is good for us.

The more we study it and know it, the more we will be able to implement what It says into our lives.

THE 3rd COMMANDMENT

(episode 045)

theme: Treat God's name with the respect it deserves. **scripture:** Exodus 20:1-17 **quote:** "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." **summary:** In this episode of REALITY CHECK roving reporter Nit Whitly doesn't interview a person, but a book. The Bible to be exact.

In this report we look into what the Bible says about the name of God. The Third Commandment, which speaks to us about not using God's name improperly, shows us how holy God's name is, and how we should treat it reverently.

Out of all of the harmful words that can come out of our mouths, using God's name improperly is the worst. Not so much for others, but for ourselves. Some may use God's name improperly when they are angry and use it as an obscenity. Others may use God's name as an exclamation of surprise or joy. Anytime we speak God's name it should be in speaking about Him or addressing Him, not as a byword or swear word.

God is holy, and His name should be treated respectfully. Let's give God, and use His name, with the respect They deserve.

THE 9th COMMANDMENT

(episode 055)

theme: God commands us to tell the truth. **scripture:** Exodus 20:16 **quote:** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Exodus 20:16 **summary:** Nit Whitly interviews the Bible for this report on the 9th Commandment. The 9th Commandment instructs us not to lie. Lying can be done in varying degrees, and even though some lies are more serious than others, truthfulness should mark all the things we say throughout the day.

As well as being the way to please God, there are many other benefits to telling the truth. By telling the truth people will learn that we can be trusted in what we say. A reputation for lying, on the other hand, will cause people to distrust what we say - even when we are being truthful.

Sometimes being honest may not be the easiest thing to do. Lying may be a way to avoid getting into trouble or get us out of something we don't want to do. But in the long run, those advantages will be far outweighed by the consequences. Peace with God and a good reputation are more preferable, so whether in big things or in little things, let's get into the good habit of being honest.

GOD'S RECIPE

(episode 088)

theme: God knows the right ingredients to a great life. **scripture:** II Timothy 3:16,17 **quote:** "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16,17 **summary:** Many people have thoughts and ideas as to what they would consider the perfect life. What they would like to do for a living, where they would like to live, what things they would like to own, and so forth. But we don't always know what is best for us, or what would really make us happy and fulfilled.

God created us and knows much better than we do what things are necessary to bring about the best possible life for us to live.

Some things are general, they apply to all men. These things are contained in the Word of God, the Bible. It tells us what our proper relationship should be to Him and to each other. He created us to function best when we live according to His laws. His Word teaches us what is right and what is wrong. His Word corrects us when we go astray. His Word shows us those things that are truly important and how best to attain them.

God has provided the Book - we need to read it and apply it. It's God's recipe for a great life.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

(episode 098)

theme: God needs to be #1 in our lives. **scripture:** Matthew 22:34-40 **quote:** "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and

with all your mind." Matthew 22:37 **summary:** When asked which was the greatest Commandment, Jesus answered by summing up the first four Commandments. He said that the greatest Commandment was "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." We find that if we obey this we will then keep the first four Commandments.

But it is a very tough command. To love God with our whole heart, soul and mind means to love Him with everything we have. There is nothing left, nothing that we can keep from Him. This is simple, but in practice we find it very hard.

God must come before everything else in our lives. In some areas we have little or no problem. It's easy to love God more than math homework - especially if we don't particularly like math homework. To love God more than video games or candy is a bit tougher.

Anything in our lives that causes us to turn our backs on God and do or say something we know is wrong is something we need to put second to loving God. It takes a lot of work and a lot of attention.

We will spend our entire lives trying to fulfill this commandment. But we will find our labors are worth it as God's peace and grace flow to us as we go.

COVETING

(episode 101)

theme: Coveting can cause us to do strange things. **scripture:** Exodus 20:17 **quote:** "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." Philippians

4:11b **summary:** Contentment is a hard thing to achieve. We are constantly surrounded by things we would like to have, or things we would like to be. To admire these things and even to strive for them (provided we they are godly things) is alright, but we need to be careful that in the desiring and striving we don't fall into sin.

It is easy for us to look at others and compare what we have with what they have. Perhaps it's a video game or some other possession that we would like. Maybe it's some ability or talent they have. We are tempted, at those times, to feel like we've been short-changed or cheated somehow by God. We can begin to be discontent with God has given us in comparison to what he's given others.

This can all lead to the sin of coveting. We take our eyes off of what God has given us and put them on what He hasn't. We may even feel that if we only had what someone else has we could be more effective in our walk with the Lord. But that would be assuming that we know better than God what is useful to Him and what isn't.

God has given to each and everyone of us just He wants us to have. We should work to develop our abilities and talents and strive to be the best of what we are. But we should never covet what others have to the point of coveting. This makes us discontent and much less useful for the Kingdom of God.

NEW DISCOVERIES

(episode 111)

theme: While we live we may always learn new things about God. **scripture:** Psalm 119:18 **quote:** "Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law." Psalm

119:18 **summary:** As long as we live we can always learn new things about God. If we apply ourselves to study God's Word, and spend time in prayer with Him every day, we will find new things contained in God's Word that we never knew before - or new applications of things we already did know. The Holy Spirit living within us has been given to us, and He teaches us the things of God (John 14:26).

Of course something is required on our end. If we neglect time in God's Word or if we get careless and don't pray we are not likely to make any new discoveries. Spending time with other believers and listening to solid Biblical teaching on a regular basis (like at a church on Sunday) are other good ways to learn new things as well.

Let's make it a part of our regular routine to pray, read God's Word, and be sure we are attending a Bible-believing church, and pray that God would open our eyes, that we may see wonderful things from His law.

JOSIAH & DISCOVERING GOD'S LAW

(episode 113)

theme: We should desire to make our lives line up with what God says is right. **scripture:** II Kings 22,23 **quote:** "Go, inquire of the Lord for me and the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book...for our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." II Kings 22:13 **summary:** Josiah was a young man who ruled Judah as their king. King Josiah started the work of upkeep on the temple. During this work, the High Priest discovered a long-hidden book. It contained the Law of God. When Josiah heard what was written in the Law he was sad. He realized that he and his people had not been obedient to the words contained in the book, that they had sinned against God. Rather than ignore it, he knew they needed to repent and begin doing what God had commanded them.

Many people today may find themselves in a similar situation to Josiah's. Through neglect or ignorance they have laid aside God's Law. Because of this they are doing things that God says are wrong. When someone realizes this has happened, how they react to it shows what's in their heart.

Some may try to ignore it further. They would rather not have to change things they are doing, especially if they really enjoy those things. They may try to justify themselves and reason away God's Word and convince themselves that they are alright just as they are.

The better option is the one Josiah took. He acknowledged God's authority to determine what is right and wrong. He understood that it is unwise to violate God's Law, and although nothing can be done to change the past, changing the present is necessary if we are to live with God's blessing.

When confronted with sin, let's not run from it, but rather embrace it. God's Law is good for us, and there is no better time than the present to get ourselves in line with it.

GOD REVEALED IN NATURE

(episode 115)

theme: God's handiwork is revealed in the things He has made. **scripture:** Romans 1:20 **quote:** "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures, after their kind'...And

it was so." Genesis 1:24 **summary:** When one considers all the different kinds of animals there are in the earth and how each one has been created with just the right things necessary for them to survive it's pretty amazing. This includes not just physical traits (like wings, claws and teeth) but the instincts they possess as well (such as birds instinctively flying south in the winter).

In this episode of Reality Check, Nit Whitly examines just a few animals and points out the specific attributes each possesses and how they are uniquely fitted for them to survive. To believe that these animals came to be as they are by chance is not very rational. To believe that there is a wise and intelligent Creator is.

God's eternal power and deity have been clearly revealed in the things He has made. No one has an excuse for not believing in God. The evidence is all around them, all they have to do is look.

GOD MEANS WHAT HE SAYS

(episode 128)

theme: When we disregard God's Word, we put ourselves in danger. **scripture:** Genesis 2:15-3:19 **quote:** "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" Genesis

3:11b **summary:** Nit Whitly presents an important lesson about listening to and obeying all that God has commanded us. To illustrate he attempts to interview Adam, the first man. Adam and Eve were living in the Garden of Eden. God had given them many things to use and enjoy. One thing they were forbidden to do was to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He told them that if they ate from that tree they would surely die.

The serpent approached Eve one day and tempted her to doubt the truth of what God had said. He suggested that they would not die after eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He further told her that the reason God didn't want them to eat of the tree was because when they did they would become just like Him. Eve ate, and then gave the fruit to Adam and he ate too. They were soon to learn the grave consequences of their sin.

After eating the fruit, they didn't become like God. Rather they were expelled from the Garden of Eden, and life as they knew it would be different. The ground would be cursed and Adam's labor would become harder. The pain in childbirth would become greater for Eve. Perhaps worst of all, death became a reality for them, both physically and spiritually. Physical death did not come immediately, but would eventually. Spiritual death was instant. They were now separated from God.

Fortunately for them (and us) God did not leave Adam and Eve lost in death. He promised to send a Savior who would redeem them (and us) from sin.

The moral of the story is, God does mean what He says, and the consequences for disobeying and ignoring His commands are real and sometimes greater than we could ever have imagined.

Let's take God at His word, and trust that He knows best.