

Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: Following 1st Service
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

March 30, 2025

Occupied With The Word

by Ken Weliever

My preaching colleague and fellow Hoosier, Lee Wildman, recently shared a post on facebook he entitled "Midweek Exhortation."

It's a rendering from Acts 18:5 that captured my attention and subsequent reflection.

Midweek Exhortation:

"Paul was occupied with the word" (ESV) (Acts 18:5)

First of all, this ought to describe my work as a preacher. What am I really occupied with? What occupies my mind and therefore my time?

Secondly, we all should be encouraged for the word of the Lord to occupy more of our thoughts and deeds.

"Let the word of the Lord dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

Lee's post triggered these thoughts.

I grew up on the "authorized King James version" which renders this phrase "Paul was pressed in the spirit."

The New King James version renders it "Paul was compelled by the Spirit."

In his commentary on Acts, Gareth Reese, observes there is a manuscript difference on this passage from the earlier versions to more recent translations. He suggested that the NASB is a better rendering. "Paul was devoted to the Word." However, I like the more recent ESV translation that Lee shared "occupied with the Word."

The Greek word rendered "occupied" or "devoted" literally means "to hold together, confine, secure, to hold fast." W.E. Vine suggested this is the "effect of the word of the Lord upon Paul."

Lee's observation that those of us who preach ought to be "occupied with the Word," is accurate and needful. If we're not careful, we may spend more reading what others say about the Bible than reading the Bible itself.

When we're "occupied with Word" we will, as Paul exhorted Timothy, "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (2 Tim. 4:2).

Being "occupied with the Word" will challenge us to follow Paul's example when he came to Corinth

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class – April 8

Gospel Meeting – Lost Pines church of Christ, Bastop, April 13-16 with Terry Sumerlin

Our Next Gospel Meeting with David Watson is scheduled for May 4-7

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

in Acts 18. Here's what he later said about his preaching in that immoral, hedonistic city. "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Cor. 2:4-5).

Being "occupied with the Word" will cause us to touch the hearts of our hearers, intellectually and emotionally. To prick the conscience. And to impact one's will or volition to accept and obey the Word. As the late Dee Bowman wrote in Common Sense Preaching, "Preaching that does not storm the will is not good preaching." In the words of G. Campbell Morgan, "The preacher should never address a crowd without remembering that his ultimate citadel is the citadel of the human will. He may approach along the lines of the intellect, but he is after the will."

Lee's post, however, can be correctly applied to others in addition to preachers.

#1 We need Shepherds who are "occupied with the Word." Men who know the Word, who possess the ability to teach. Who can recognize and refute error. And know how to feed the flock with a spiritual diet as they watch for their souls.

#2 We need parents who are "occupied with the Word." Mothers and fathers who will train their children in the "discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Parents who will have the courage to set boundaries, say "no" to harmful influences, prioritize their children's spiritual welfare, and

set an example of godliness in the home.

#3 We need Christians in our congregations who are "occupied with the Word." Men and women, boys and girls, young and old, who not only participate in Bible reading, but engage in Bible study. Who seek to be transformed by Christ instead of being conformed to the passions and pleasure of a secular society. Who seek those things which are above. Who serve as a beacon of light in a world of darkness. And who emulate the righteous character of Christ without becoming self-righteous.

"Occupied with the Word." This single, simple phrase says a lot. What does it say to you? *{used with permission from thepreachersword.com}*

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jimmy Stinnett is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

Dinah Williams is having some issues with her legs from diabetes.

Dorothy Steadman finished her radiation treatment.

Wilma Shipley had a mini-stroke this past week.

Audria Trammel will have surgery April 15 for breathing issues.

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Dinah Williams, Marcia Neuhaus, Shirley Perkins

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
Darrell@oakswestchurchofChrist.com

Elders

George Gresham
Darrell Trammel

Deacons

Jim Turner
Clay Hallmark

Contact Us

Address:
P.O. Box 675
Burnet, TX 78611
Call: (512) 756-4493
E-Mail:
oakswestchurch@gmail.com
Website:
oakswestchurchofchrist.com