

Week of September 30-October 6

## **NOT ENOUGH**

**Scripture Reading:** Read 2 Thessalonians 2

**Know the Word** – As believers in Jesus Christ, we are called to know the Word of God. We are challenged to hide God's Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11) and to meditate on it (Joshua 1:9; Psalm 1). Jesus told those who sought to follow him that they would know the truth and the truth would set them free (John 8:32). There is no place in the church for biblical illiteracy.  
***But knowing the truth is NOT ENOUGH...***

**Believe the Word** – As important as knowing the truth is, we must take another step and believe the Word. The writer of Hebrews tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God for the one who comes to God must believe that he is and that he rewards those who diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6). Earlier in Hebrews, he challenged his readers to learn from the example of the Israelites who came out of Egypt but failed to make it to the Promised Land. They had God's message but it was of no value to them. Why not? *"Because those who heard did not combine it with faith" (Hebrews 4:2).*

***But believing the truth is NOT ENOUGH...***

**Live the Word** – As important as knowing and believing the truth is, it's not enough. If it were, then the demons would be saved since they both know and believe that there is one God and that Jesus is the Son of God (James 2:19). Yet, they certainly aren't saved. What they missed is what James commands in 1:22 – *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* Faith, if it has no works is a dead faith that accomplishes nothing (James 2:17). What is needed is more than passive faith. What is needed is active trust, faith that works.  
***But living the truth is NOT ENOUGH...***

**Love the Word** – To be sure, knowing, believing and living the truth are critical to spiritual life. You can't believe or live what you don't know. You don't live what you don't believe. Without all three, we are incomplete. Paul, however, adds one more; one that we usually don't consider...Love the truth. Huh? Look at what Paul says in today's chapter reading: *"They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."* Notice Paul's train of thought in these verses. In the last days, there will be individuals who make a choice to delight in wickedness instead of loving the truth. With no love of the truth in their hearts, they will succumb to God's powerful delusion and they will fall prey to the deceptive signs of the man of lawlessness and follow him to their ruin. What is tragic is that their destruction was avoidable if only they had loved the truth instead of their sin. Loving the truth would have been the vaccine that prevented the disease of delusion.

**Action Step & Prayer Focus:** Today's devotional is a hard word. It forces us to ask the tough questions. Do I love the truth or do I love my sin? Do I just like the truth or I am passionately loving and following the truth? Pray God gives you a love for the truth.

**Take-a-way:** ***Know, believe, live and...love the truth!***

Week of September 30-October 6