

May 27 & 28, 2023

Message: Pastor Doyle Jackson

Study: Pastor Doug McCoy

Sweeter Than Honey 2

I. Announcements & Prayer

- **This Weekend** – indoor worship services **Saturday @ 5pm** and **Sunday @ 9:20 and 11am**. You can listen in your car by tuning your radio to 95.3 FM or watch the livestream on Facebook or thechurchnextdoor.org. **Bring a neighbor! Invite a friend!**
- **Radio Show** – the **Your Next Step** radio show continues **Mon-Fri at 10:30am** on **The Word 880 AM and 104.5 FM**. The podcast is also available on our website yournextstepnow.com as well as all podcasting services.
- **New Bible Reading Plan and Podcast** – find our 2023 Bible reading plan and daily podcast on the app or at <https://thechurchnextdoor.org/connect/bible-reading-plan/>. It will bless your life!

II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. If you could go back in time 10,000 years ago and make a cave painting to confuse everyone in the future, what would you draw?
2. What's the best topping for ice cream?

III. Bible Study

Read **Psalm 19:9–10** (NIV)

Desire godliness... **9** The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

1. When have you found God and His Word to be “more precious than gold” and “sweeter than honey”? How does this experience convince you of the truth and power of the Word? What are you doing to “store up” this gold/honey?

Read **2 Timothy 3:10–17** (NIV)

Paul's final encouragement to Timothy... **10** You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, **11** persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. **12** In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, **13** while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, **15** and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. What does Paul tell Timothy the Scriptures (i.e., the Bible) are able to do for us? Why does he say the Scriptures can do this? When have you experienced this truth about the Bible, i.e., when have you found it to be “God-breathed” and “useful”?

Read **Deuteronomy 29:29** (NIV)

Moses and renewal of Covenant... **29** The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

3. What “secret things” (things we would never otherwise discover) has God “revealed” to us? How does it feel to know you have been given such revelation? How are you sharing that revelation with your children or other people?

Read **Matthew 4:4** (NIV)

Jesus defends Himself against Satan's lie... **4** Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ [Deut. 8:3]” (Jesus uses a historical text to rebuff the tempter.)

4. What does this incident show us about Jesus’ belief in the power and truthfulness of the Bible? How are you following Jesus in both this belief and this method of defense? What would enable you to better defend yourself against lies in this way?

Read **John 10:7-8** (NIV) and **Genesis 2:23-24** (NIV)

Jesus the Good Shepherd... **7** Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. (Jesus is not literally a door. You are not sheep. This is a metaphor for teaching.)

Creation of Man and Woman... **23** The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” **24** That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

5. When have you taken biblical language too literally? Why does it make perfect sense that God would speak in analogies, metaphors, and other figures of speech that have real but not literal meanings? How can we work with these figures of speech to find God’s truth?

Read **Ephesians 5:25** (NIV), **Matthew 7:21-22** (NIV), and **Matthew 7:3-4** (NIV)

Instructions for Godly households... **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.... (God’s word affirms marriage from Genesis to Revelation as unique.)

Jesus teaching the beatitudes... **21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **22** On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ (Don’t take your relationship with God lightly or based on your works.)

3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?

6. Have you ever tried to apply these teachings? How difficult was it? What will enable us to better live out the difficult teachings of the Bible? How can we encourage each other to do that?