

April 2016 Newsletter - "Much more then, having NOW been justified by His blood...." Rom. 5:9

The Difference of One Word

When we take time to internalize God's Word, we often pause to take notice of individual words, sometimes small, that make a great difference. One such word is "now" in Romans 5:9 (and again in 5:11). "Having **now** been justified by His blood...we have **now** received the reconciliation." Justification, being declared righteous before God, is not something the believer must wait to know or be assured of, but it is **now**. Reconciliation, being utterly and completely at peace with God, not contingent on my future performance but NOW! What peace, what comfort. We have **now** been justified; we are **now** reconciled. What small word or words have been life-changing or nourishing for you? We would love to hear your report.

Correcting Recitations - Help Without Exasperation

We all make mistakes in reciting Scripture. "To err is human;" perhaps nowhere more than in reciting Scripture! But because "every word of God is pure" (Prov. 30:5), make it your aim to find and fix every error. Being confident of the exact wording will make quoting more pleasurable and sharing more comfortable. An attentive hearer who catches your mistakes will help you make great progress toward the goal of having your Scripture ready to deploy in every situation (2 Tim. 4:2). If your hearer also quotes to you, this will make it much easier for him/her to have mercy on your miscues. Consider the two types of correction below:

Instant Correction Your hearer alerts you instantly, as soon as a mistake is made in your recitation. He/she can correct you with "Say that part again" or "Go back to the part where it says this." Or, a hearer can simply say "again" at the exact point of error. Instant feedback prevents errors from lodging in the mind.



Experience proves that errors allowed a foothold soon become permanent residents very difficult to evict! On the other hand, instant feedback can derail your train of thought.

Reviewed Correction Your hearer listens to your whole recitation before correcting your errors from a list he or she has written or remembered while you quoted. This method minimizes distractions while you recite—as long as you ignore the moving pencil! Also, if your hearer marks down corrections on your copy, you then have a great review sheet to help you file down the rough edges. Another way to practice this is making correction in dry-erase marker on copies of your verses in clear sheet-protectors. On the down side, waiting for corrections allows errors to settle in and sometimes the hearer forgets some of the errors. Also, one may feel disheartened if the string of corrections gets long.

Pick a method above or devise your own, but clarify the exact mode of corrections with your hearer ahead of time. Of course you and your hearer may prefer different correction methods when reciting. Regardless, practice correction intentionally, receive it humbly, and enjoy knowing His Word exactly! "Faithful are the wounds of a friend," and so are the nicks of correction (Prov. 27:6).

Do You "Own" His Word in Your Heart?

Gwen M. from Tennessee, wrote: "I can never express my thankfulness enough to My Lord...for formatting and making available to thousands the Scripture Memory plan for hiding God's Word in our hearts. The verses that I learned during the five-year plan are the most valuable thing I 'own.' They are continually brought to mind (through the Holy Spirit) for just exactly the need I have. God's Word is powerful 'for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness' (2 Tim. 3:16).... I will be eternally grateful."

God's Word Continues to Spread in Indonesia!



As Phil and Jacky Walker continue their ministry overseas, Scripture memory has made a big impact in the lives of children at local orphanages. Andy Tobing of STT Setia, who previously faced much opposition in his ministry, reports that after only one month in Northwest Sumatra all students are able to sing Scripture songs containing 30 Bible verses.

The Walkers are thankful for the blessing of their newborn son, Joshua, and they request your prayers for their family, ministry and pressing financial needs.

In Memory

Dr. Charles C. Ryrie, author, professor, and friend of Scripture Memory Fellowship, went to be with the Lord on Feb. 16. His love for God's Word bore fruit in numerous books and tracts including *The Young Christian's Introduction to the Bible* which we publish. Dr. Ryrie longed to see Christians treasure God's Word, and we thank the Lord for Dr. Ryrie's friendship, counsel, and support over the years. He spoke just last year at the launch luncheon for our app.

We also join Linda and Joe Whitaker in praising God for the life of Linda's Dad, Pastor Paul Reed, who went to be with the Lord Feb. 17. Paul's influence marked his whole family with a warm-hearted love and joy in Christ that expressed itself in word, song, and witness to all who knew him.

Please remember these families in prayer.

Ministry Update

Please pray for the final programming work needed on the iOS app. We ask the Lord to make this tool the means of planting much treasure in many hearts around the world! More to be desired are they than gold... sweeter than honey...but the gold must be captured, the honey must be tasted. Please pray for the balance of the \$12,000 needed to pay for the development of this useful technology. We also value your prayers for our staff (Laura Raborn, Dakota Lynch, and Jim Woychuk) as we travel to various conventions and opportunities. See scripturememory.com/events for a complete list.

We thank God for you. Much grace to each of you,

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Scripture Memory Fellowship exists to help you grip the "sword of the Spirit" (Eph. 6:17) through Scripture memorization, knowledge, and application.