

July 17, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Jer. 15:16 *When Your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear Your name, LORD God Almighty. (NIV)*

The prophet Jeremiah had called upon the LORD to give him the words to speak to his country. The nation of Israel had once again turned to their own desires instead of to the LORD's. This reminds me of our nation. We once followed the LORD closely and desired what He desired for us. Jeremiah knew that the only hope for his people was to not only hear the words of God, but to obey them as well. What good is it if we hear His words and then act like they are not important. It reminds me of the passage in **James 1:22-25** *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it-not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it-they will be blessed in what they do. (NIV)*

Jeremiah is praising the LORD because he received the words from Him that he needed to deliver to the people of Israel. It is so much better to give the words of God to people rather than our own words. Every Sunday, as I stand in the pulpit to proclaim the word of the LORD, I call upon Him to speak instead of the words of my mouth. And now, Jeremiah is full of joy and delight because the LORD has spoken and it is now up to the people of God to obey or disobey. This word was also spoken earlier to a young king named Solomon. **2 Chron. 7:14** *If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sins and will heal their land. (NIV)*

Dear Father, help us to digest Your word. Your word is life to us. It is nourishment for our weary souls. I pray we will turn to You and delight in You alone. We need You more than ever LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen