

“Hammer Verses”

One of the difficult aspects of the ministry of Jeremiah, was the opposition he faced at the hands of leaders. The two most unpopular messages this “pk” (priest’s kid) gave were as follows: (1) Judah needed to go into captivity. To try and avoid it by going to Egypt or remaining in the land would only make things worse (ch. 24). (2) Much of Judah’s sin could be laid at the feet of her leaders—including false prophets who were preaching false messages (ch. 23).

As God, through Jeremiah, contrasted His Word with their false messages, He reminded Judah, “Is not my word like fire...and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” (23:29)

There is perhaps no other biblical passage that captures the power of the Bible more than this. If our lives will be changed by the Spirit of God, it is as He takes the Word of God in hand and breaks to pieces the rock of stubbornness and sluggishness from our hearts.

Since this is the case, we should desire to store up God’s Word in our hearts as much as we can. After all, this is how we follow God and avoid sin (Ps. 119:11).

It is with this in mind we will offer to our congregation a program for memorizing Scripture. This program will involve the following components.

First, in each week’s Sunday morning bulletin we will place a “Hammer Verse Of The Week. Second, we will also do the same thing each week on our web site’s home page. Third, we also have placed five different documents on the Resource page of our site which contain “Hammer Verses.”

The verses which have been chosen are borrowed from the “Fighter Verse” memorization program at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Program is designed to include a short passage each week to memorize (usually 1-3 verses) over a five year period. At the end of five years, a person could potentially have memorized around 400 verses (roughly 250 different short passages). Also, at the end of each five year period, we will begin the rotation again.

The passages chosen are specifically designed to build our faith by focusing on God’s promises, what God is like, and basics of the Christian life.

How can these “hammer verses” be used? To begin, I would encourage individuals to track with the hammer verse of the week (by bulletin or home page) and commit to memorizing that passage each week. If that is all the Scripture memory work you do, it will still be very substantial and powerful in your life.

Additionally, I would encourage families to work on memorizing these verses together as part of your family devotions.

Finally, if you are discipling someone, I would also suggest that you make memorization of these passages part of your time spent together.

My prayer is that as you hide the Scriptures in your heart and become doers of the Word (James 1:22), the Bible will be a lamp unto your feet and light unto your path! (Ps. 119:11)