

**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**  
**Notes from Rodney L. Barbour**  
**October 11, 2009**

**Theme:** Alan writes: The Bible can serve as both anchor and launching pad; which is it to you? Do you take the Bible seriously, and what role does it play in your life? Too often, we just read the Bible, rather than allow the Bible to read us. Today we praise God as *The Word* and for his word to us.

**Countdown to Worship:** Remember to come five minutes before the service as we will have our first countdown video. This will be questions from "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grade Sunday School Class". It will be both fun and help us as we celebrate God's Word in our life.

**Preparation for Worship:** Today the choir sings: *My soul finds rest in God alone; my rock and my salvation. A fortress strong against my foes and I will not be shaken. Though lips may bless and hearts may curse and lies like arrows pierce me, I'll fix my heart on righteousness, I'll look to Him who hears me. So, we praise Jesus as the rock, as the foundation, as the fortress!*

**Call to Worship:** These words come from Psalm 119: 97-104. Look up these verses and read before Sunday. Realize, God's word makes us wise---wiser than our enemies, wiser than any teachers who ignore it. True wisdom is not amassing knowledge, but applying knowledge in a life-changing way. Wisdom comes from allowing what God teaches to make a difference in our lives.

**Hymn of Praise:** After the opening lines: "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word," the text continues quoting directly from Isaiah 43:1-5. Here is some of the text: *"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand." "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply; The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."* Receive these words of comfort and encouragement.

**Confession:** Here are some of the words from today's confession time: *we have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.* One of the things in all of our lives we have left "undone" is spending enough time in God's word. There are lots of closed Bibles on bookshelves and coffee tables. Use this time to talk to God about being open to the Holy Spirit prompting your heart to desire to immerse yourself in God's word. As scripture says: God's Word is a lamp unto our feet and light unto our path.

**Scripture/Sermon:** Along with Psalm 119: 1-16, Alan will speak from John 1:1-5. Take time now to read both of these passages. In John 1: 4 we read that *Jesus Christ was the creator of life, and his life brings light to humankind*. In his light, we see ourselves as we really are (sinners in need of a Savior). When we follow Jesus, the Light, we can avoid walking blind and falling into sin. He lights the path ahead of us so we can see how to live. He removes the darkness of sin from our lives.

***See you in Worship this Sunday. Rodney Barbour***