

# PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Rev. Justin Panzer | District President



**"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

**(John 8:31-32)**

## **(Part 1 of 3)**

**"Abiding in the Word" (John 8:31-32).** This was the theme for our recently concluded 75th Kansas District Convention.

God's Word is living and active (Heb. 4:12) because it is the Word of the living and life-creating God Himself. The Scriptures teach that all people *"are dead in their trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1)*. In Christ, God makes us, who are spiritually dead, alive (Col. 2:13). The apostle Peter writes, *"Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding Word of God" (1 Pt. 1:23)*. Yes, God makes us alive through His living Word, and this same living Word continues to work in us and bring blessing to us.

God's living Word is at work within believers (1 Th. 2:13). As you are a believer in Christ, feed on His living, life-giving, life-transforming Word. Peter writes, *"...like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation" (1 Pt. 2:2)*. Psalm

1:3 says that all who feed on God's Word will be like a tree planted by streams of water.

We must understand that God's living Word contains both the Law and the Gospel. The word of the Law kills, but the word of the Gospel gives life (2 Cor. 3:6). We must not confuse the two. When these two Biblical teachings are mixed, the clear teaching of what God has graciously done for us in Christ then becomes confused, and our hearts are filled with anxiety. Mixing Law and Gospel causes the precious, life-giving medicine of the Gospel to be diluted, losing the power to overcome the sickness of sin. On the other hand, the Law can be diluted to the point where we do not see ourselves as deathly sick, in need of the life-giving Gospel. Confusing or mixing the Law and Gospel robs us of the blessing God promises in Romans 5:1, *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

**The greatest blessing of all is that through His Spirit, God's living Word enables us to believe and be connected to Jesus, who is the living and incarnate Word of God. Jesus Himself clearly stated in John 5:39 that the Scriptures "bear witness" to Him.**

God's Word is inspired (2 Pt. 1:21) and inerrant (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It is entirely reliable and gives us everything we need to know and believe for Christian faith and life.

God's Word accomplishes that which it commands (Isa. 55:11). It creates faith in a person which enables them to repent and to trust in Jesus for salvation (Mark 1:15; Rom. 10:17).

By faith, Christians trust these claims. Jesus stands as the center and object of our faith. In Him, *"all the promises of God find their Yes" (2 Cor. 1:20)*.