"THE VALUE OF GOD'S WONDERFUL WORD"
PSALM 138:1-8
TEXT: VERSE 2
"THOU HAST MAGNIFIED THY WORD ABOVE ALL THY NAME"

INTRO: When we look back into the history of America, we can see that many of our founders had a great respect for the Bible, THE WORD OF GOD. For instance:

- John Adams said: *"THE BIBLE CONTAINS THE MOST PROFOUND PHILOSOPHY, THE MOST PERFECT MORALITY AND THE MOST REFINED POLICY THAT EVER WAS CONCEIVED UPON EARTH. IT IS THE MOST REPUBLICAN (PROPER FORM OF GOVERNMENT) BOOK IN THE WORLD, AND THEREFORE I WILL STILL REVERE IT."*
- *John Dickenson said: "THE SCRIPTURES GIVE A FULL AND AMPLE TESTIMONY TO ALL THE PRINCIPAL DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. THEY ARE THE MOST EXCELLENT WRITINGS IN THE WORLD. WE ARE BOUND TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD FOR PRESERVING THESE WRITINGS SO PURE AND UNCORRUPTED AS WE HAVE THEM TO TESTIFY OF HIS TRUTH."*
- *Benjamin Rush said: "THE BIBLE IS RICH WITH DIVINE TRUTH AND I NEVER READ THE BIBLE WITHOUT SEEING SOMETHING IN IT THAT I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE."*

IT IS BECAUSE of the high value that many of our founders had for the Bible that our nation was grounded on solid biblical principles that has enabled America to become the greatest nation on earth. ***AND YET IN OUR TIME***, WE MUST BE CONCERNED THAT STATISTICS SHOW THAT 84 MILLION EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS DID NOT VOTE IN THE LAST ELECTION RESULTING IN THE FACT THAT MANY WERE VOTED INTO OFFICE WHO ***DO NOT KNOW*** GOD'S WORD, ***WHO DENY*** GOD'S WORD, ***WHO CONTRADICT*** GOD'S WORD OR ***WHO REJECT*** GOD'S WORD THAT WILL ULTIMATELY BRING CONDEMNATORY EFFECTS ON AMERICA BECAUSE OF ISSUES HELD BY MANY WHO HAVE BEEN VOTED INTO OFFICE. ***SOME OF THOSE ISSUES*** include the promotion of: Islamic Sharia Law, Same-Sex Marriages, Abortion, Atheism, Denial of Biblical Truth, Democratic Socialism and a number of other anti-God and anti-Biblical concepts where the HOLY SCRIPTURES ARE REJECTED, REFUSED, DENIED AND ATTACKED***. IN ADDITION***, here in Altoona there was a time in which our city was recognized as the buckle of the Bible Belt in Central Pennsylvania. This was evidenced in the fact THAT Gospel Hill was designated as a place for prayer, THAT numerous open air evangelistic crusades were conducted, THAT a Bible Conference was established that brought world-renown preachers to town that thousands flocked to hear, THAT there were at least five fundamental churches had more than 1000 worshippers attend on Sunday morning from which scores of people went into full-time ministry, THAT the Altoona School District had a policy of having no activities on Sunday, THAT various institutions like ABI and ARM were established to promote the Word of God. ***IT CAN BE CONCLUDED*** that at one time God's Word was respected and loved by people in and around Altoona, but THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE NOW. Ever since 1999 our church has been involved in an effort to get Bibles into the hands of people including our Bible's To Altoona Project, The Ten Commandment Project, Bible Distribution Ministry to the Altoona Campus of PSU and to the students of the Altoona School District. These efforts in the past were done with little resistance until this year when we have had some very negative responses to our distribution of God's Word to AJHS. ***WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS INDICATE TO US? THAT PEOPLE DO NOT VALUE THE WORD OF GOD AS THEY ONCE DID AND IN FACT, THEY RESIST AND REJECT THE WORD OF GOD, WHICH IF THIS CONTINUES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE PERSONAL AND CORPORATE DESTRUCTION OF OUR CITY, OUR STATE, OUR NATION AND OUR CULTURE. HOW SHOULD WE WHO KNOW AND LOVE THE LORD RESPOND TO THIS? BY RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF THE WORD OF GOD, BY DETERMINING TO APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO EVERY ASPECT OF OUR PERSONAL LIVES AND BY COMMUNICATING GOD'S WORD.***
NOTE: Psalm 138:2 says that GOD "HAS MAGNIFIED HIS WORD ABOVE ALL HIS NAME." Though God values His Name, He also HIGHLY VALUES HIS WORD! The word "MAGNIFY" is the Hebrew word "GAW-DAL" which means **"TO BE MADE LARGE, TO HONOR, TO ADVANCE, TO BOAST ABOUT, TO INCREASE, TO LIFT UP, TO PROMOTE, TO GROW, TO SPEAK HIGHLY OF, TO MAKE KNOWN."**
PERSONAL APPLICATION: IF GOD MAGNIFIES HIS WORD, SO SHOULD WE!
QUESTION: HOW CAN WE MAGNIFY GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES?

I. BY UNDERSTANDING THE ESSENCE OF GOD'S WORD

A. God's Word IS ABSOLUTELY NOT OF MAN – 1 Thessalonians 2:13

B. God's Word IS ABSOLUTELY OF GOD – 2 Peter 1:20,21

II. BY UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECT OF GOD'S WORD

A. God's Word BRINGS SALVATION – 2 Timothy 3:15

B. God's Word BRINGS SPIRITUAL GROWTH – 1 Peter 2:2

III. BY UNDERSTANDING THE ETERNALITY OF GOD'S WORD

A. God's Word is ETERNALLY SETTLED – Psalm 119:89

B. God's Word is ETERNALLY SECURED – Matthew 5:18

IV. BY UNDERSTANDING THE EXPANSE OF GOD'S WORD

A. God's Word ACCOMPLISHES GOD'S PURPOSES– Isaiah 55:11

B. God's Word ACCOMPLISHES GOD'S PROMISES – 2 Corinthians 1:20

LESSONS AND APPLICATION

BECAUSE OF THE VALUE OF GOD'S WORD, WE SHOULD REGULARLY APPLY IT TO OUR PERSONAL LIVES AND COMMUNICATE IT TO OTHERS. ***HOW?***

1) By Personal study and application

2) Personal witness and explanation