

ELEMENT OF WORSHIP:

Scripture Reading & Sermon

God speaks to us through the reading and preaching of his word.

DEFINITION

The reading and preaching of the Word of God functions as the climax of the service. In it, we hear God's Word from Scripture and that Word expounded by the preacher.

The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8

DEVOTIONAL

Have you ever been absolutely transfixed by a bouquet of flowers? The yellows, whites, and pinks of the blooms and the soft greens of the leaves and stems? A bouquet can be an utter delight to the senses. And yet, the very arrangement of these flowers in a bouquet guarantees their fading and eventual death. Interestingly, the Bible compares men and women to flowers. The beauty of humanity is acknowledged, but its fleeting nature, its brevity, is emphasized. In a sense, this is why no mere man or woman could be the center of our worship. We can't bear the weight. The reading of Scripture

and preaching of the Word stand at the climax of our worship service because it is here that our temporary beauty meets with the eternal, unchanging reality of our God. Scripture stands as God's Word, a physical representation of his condescension to us. And although no man or woman could be at the center of our worship, with the Word at the center we are reminded of the God who became man. As we focus on the Word, we see that Jesus in his humanity and deity is the only One worthy to be worshipped.

APPLICATION

What is your attitude toward Scripture? Read Isaiah 40:6-8. Allow your heart and mind to engage with the words of this passage. How do you feel? Pray your feelings to God. Allow this to transition you into your personal time of reading Scripture.

God, thank you that you revealed yourself in your Word. As I read your Scripture and listen to the preaching of your Word, open my eyes to your truth. Let my heart be prepared to meet with you. Make me a doer, not just a hearer, of your Word. Amen.
