

## **Multiplication** **-Ryan Parsons-**

A short time after the Kingdom burst onto the scene, an ugly man in power named Herod killed James and arrested Peter with the same intent because it would make the Jews happy. There was some serious heat on the Church. Would it withstand the challenge, or would it crumple up and die?

Because of our understanding of basic human behavior, it is surprising that, instead of the Church shrinking back, something special happened:

**Acts 12:24**

But the word of God increased and multiplied.

This was no enigma.

When Jesus came under attack by Satan in the wilderness, he didn't clam up. He responded to the taunts with:

“Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Mt. 4:4)

At a time where faith was challenged, God's word increased. When The Way was under attack, the good news about Jesus (The Word) proliferated rapidly!

How does the Word multiply? The Hebrew writer quotes the prophet Jeremiah:

**Jeremiah 31:33**

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will **write** it on their **hearts**. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

In the same way that God's covenant was etched into stone, our hearts are to bear the permanent writing of the LORD, and this is not with something that can be erased, redacted, or edited. Therefore, as we continue walking by faith, we are to be writing that word on the lives of our family, friends, and neighbors. Regardless of the cultural and political environment around us, we must see to it that the word of God increases and multiplies.

Will you commit your new year to writing the word of God upon your heart?

Starting January 1st, 2020 we will embark upon a journey to read through the Bible in a year. You are encouraged to join us. Schedules can be picked up in the foyer or downloaded from the church website. Join in the conversation online in our private Facebook groups. For more information visit with Ryan.