

The Gift of The Word of God and Its Purpose

I Peter 1:22-25

The Holy Scriptures are under great attack in the world. Men everywhere question the truthfulness, the completeness, and the relevance of the Bible. In our opening text, Peter the apostle of Jesus Christ declares that “word of God lives and abides forever.” The greatest evidence of the power of the word is in the changed lives as men and women are born again and lay aside all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, evil speaking and other corrupting behaviors and seed holiness through the blood of Jesus.

- I. It is clear when reading the teaching of Christ that He expects us to know what He wants us to do. Serving Jesus is not something haphazard. Jesus does have life giving, life directing commands and principles that He expects us to follow.
 - A. Hebrews 1:1,2: God has spoken to us in these last days through His Son. An interesting point is that the writer declares that God had used prophets in former times, but is now speaking through the Son.
 - B. Matthew 7:21-27: Jesus openly declares two fundamental principles. First, you can live thinking you are a Christian only to be disappointed at judgment day because you didn't do what the will of God is. Second, the only sure way to build a spiritual house that will stand the test of judgment is to hear the word of Christ and do it.
 - C. John 8:31-32: To be a disciple of Jesus we have to abide in His word. In doing that we will know the truth and the truth will make us free.
 - D. John 8:42-47, 51: Christ is declaring what the Father wants us to know. His word is truth. If we don't hear the message, it is because we are not of God. If we keep the words of Jesus, we shall never see death.
 - E. John 12:44-50: The words that Jesus has spoken will be our judge on the last day. This is to be expected because what Jesus speaks is what the Father has told Him to speak. The command of God is everlasting life.
 - F. John 14:21-24: The measure of our love for Jesus is whether or not we obey His commands. Jesus says it directly in the both the positive and the negative. “He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who love me.” (vs. 21) “He who does not love me does not keep My words.” (vs. 24)
 - G. John 16:12-16: Jesus was not able to tell the apostles everything they needed to know while He was with them. He promised that after He departed, He would send the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth, and that He (Holy Spirit) would guide the apostles into all truth.
 - H. Matthew 24:35: Christ boldly states that though heaven and earth would pass away, His word would not pass away.

- II. The apostles believed that Christ fulfilled the promise of John 16:12-16. They believed that the word they spoke was the word come from the Father and the Son.
 - A. I Corinthians 14:37: Paul states that what he was writing came from the Lord.
 - B. Galatians 1:11, 12: Again Paul declares that the gospel message he was preaching did not come from himself or some other man, but that it came by revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - C. II Timothy 3:14-17: The holy scriptures are inspired by God. They have been given so that the man of God knows what to do and be able to be complete for every good work.
 - D. II Peter 1:2-4: Peter's message is that Christ had given all things that pertain to life and godliness. This passage along with II Timothy 3:14-17 put away any claim by subsequent “prophets” that they have a revelation from God. What are they going to tell us about life and godliness that we don't already know from the holy scriptures? The answer is simple—nothing.

E. Jude 3: The faith has been once for all delivered to the saints. Notice the finality of this statement—“once for all delivered.” Past tense, task completed.

III. We are expected to know and follow the word.

- A. Colossians 3:16: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...”
- B. II Timothy 4:1-4: Evangelists are to preach the word! There is strong emphasis on strong teaching of the word because the time would come when people would rather hear fables than the truth. That time is upon us now.
- C. Hebrews 4:12: The word of God is alive and powerful and is able to discern what is in our hearts. Maybe that is why people don't want to hear the word. They would rather not know that they are disobedient to the will of Christ.
- D. I John 2:3-5: We know we know Him if we keep His commandments. If we say we know Him and do not keep His commandments we are a liar and the truth is not in us. If we keep His word, the love of God is perfected in us.
- E. I John 3:24: He who keeps Christ's commandments abides in Him.

Whose voice will you hear? Will you hear the voice of Christ calling you to love and forgive or the voice calling for selfishness and hate? When Christ calls you to repent (change to live His way), will you hear His voice or obey the passions of your flesh? When He calls you to believe and be baptized into Him, will you in humility submit, or will you decide on your own or some man's authority what you will do?

Here the voice of Christ again: “He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me.”

Content of the closing paragraph can be found in the following passages of scripture:

John 15:12

Matthew 6:14, 15

Luke 13:3; Luke 24:46, 47

Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16:15, 16

John 3:5