

WORD OF GOD



Introduction

In the last study we discovered that Jesus is truly Lord of heaven and earth. He has made it possible for us to know God and live the abundant life. He died for our sins and then rose from the tomb proving He is Lord of all. Based on that discovery we now turn to His revelation, the Bible. The purpose of this study is to establish the power and authority of the word of God. With the Bible as the final authority for religious belief and practice we have a standard for evaluating and developing a relationship with God.

The Bible is made up of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New. Explain terminology of Testament/Will/Covenant.

Which Testament are We Under Today?

Galatians 3:19-25 What was the purpose of the Law (Old Testament) according to verse 19? When we read the law we **learn about sin** (“Thou shall not...though shall not...”) **and our need for grace** (because sooner or later we break the law).

None of us can obey the law perfectly. We need grace.

What was the purpose of the Law according to *verse 24*? **To lead us to Christ.**

His covenant has brought us the grace that law does not provide.

Hebrews 9:15-17

When did the new covenant between man and God come into effect?

What Testament or covenant are we under today?

Now that Christ has come, we are no longer under the Old Testament. We learn about God and the history of Him bringing His Son through the Jews to save the world in the Old Testament. However, the Old Testament is fulfilled with the coming of Christ who brings us a better covenant of grace. This is what the New Testament is all about.

(Additional verses on the Old Law if needed: Acts 13:38-39; Romans 7:1-6; Romans 8:1-3; Hebrews 8:6-13; Hebrews 10:9-10; John 1:17)

The New Testament of Jesus Christ

Matthew 28:18 Who has all authority in heaven and on earth?

John 17:6-8 Notice the reoccurring theme in Jesus’ prayer for the apostles.

What did Jesus tell the Father that he gave to the apostles?

John 17:17 What did Jesus say is truth?

John 17:20 Who does Jesus pray for here? How would future disciples (us) believe in Jesus?

Note: This shows the importance of the apostles and their written Word found in the New Testament. We believe in Jesus through **their** written Word. The Apostles were eyewitnesses of Christ and they received revelation from God. We must beware of men claiming to be modern apostles or to have revelation from God apart from the written Word.

The Author and Value of the Bible

II Timothy 3:16, 17

What does it mean that scripture is “God breathed?”

What does it mean that the word of God is useful?

Give examples of some areas of life that the Scripture equips us for good works.

Some answers.

All scripture is inspired by God. (Every single page, every single verse even every single word.)

It is not simply to be read but it must be applied to our lives. It can make a difference at work, in a marriage, with parents and children, it gives financial insight, and most of all the word of God instructs us on how to live for God. Remember medicine that is not taken is of no value.

II Peter 1:20, 21

Though the Bible has many writers how many authors does it have?

Who is the author?

From the author’s perspective how many interpretations are there to be?

What are the possible problems if there is a “difference of interpretation” on foundational issues?

Some answers.

No Scripture is the prophet’s own interpretation (not made up by prophets). Revised Standard Version says the Scripture is not a matter on one’s own interpretation (private interpretation). The Bible is not up for all kinds of interpretation. It is not interpreting the Bible that is the problem (as a rule) but the fact people are caught up in a worldly mind set or traditions, or own personal feelings.

One Author (God) = one interpretation from the author’s perspective (Luke 21:15 points out that there would be a consistent message, in other words, no contradictions).

The Bible is understandable - it is ABSOLUTE truth. We cannot go by our feelings but by the Word of God only.

The Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote the books of the Bible. Every word in the Bible is exactly what God wanted written.

I Thess. 2:13 could also be used if need be.

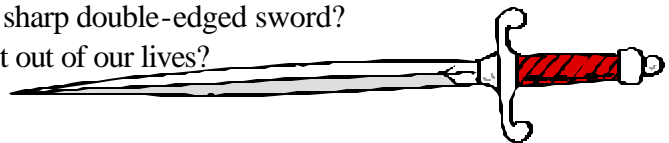


Hebrews 4:12, 13

What does it mean that the word of God is living and active?

Why would the Scriptures be referred to as a sharp double-edged sword?

What do you think God would be trying to cut out of our lives?



Some answers.

The Word of God is living and active. It is not outdated or irrelevant - but powerful and meaningful to our lives TODAY because man has not changed, just our technology.

The Word cuts (hurts) - but pain is good in that it is a warning to us. People would not normally go in for surgery even if it were free. But if a person knew they had a malignant brain tumor, they would go for surgery in order to save their life. The Word cuts like a scalpel.

It is good to be cut by the Word of God because it cuts out the bad. When you read a passage of Scripture that convicts (cuts) it does NOT mean something bad is happening. It is cutting out sin from our lives that will destroy our souls.

Response to the Word of God

I Timothy 4:16

What does Paul tell Timothy to watch closely? What is “life?” What is “doctrine?”

Which is more important, life or doctrine? Why?

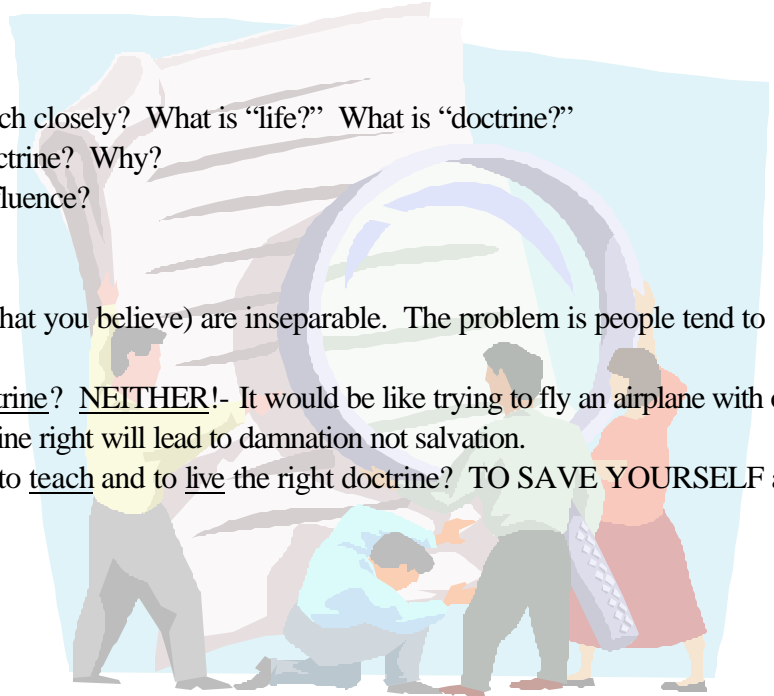
Who does your life and doctrine influence?

Some answers.

Life (how you live) and doctrine (what you believe) are inseparable. The problem is people tend to emphasize one over the other.

What is more important, life or doctrine? NEITHER!- It would be like trying to fly an airplane with only one wing. Only having life or doctrine right will lead to damnation not salvation.

Why is it so important to learn and to teach and to live the right doctrine? TO SAVE YOURSELF and those WHO HEAR you.



John 8:31, 32

Who is Jesus speaking to?

Since Jesus is speaking to Jews who already believed him, do his comments suggest that their belief alone was sufficient for being saved? Why or why not?

What does it mean to “hold” to Jesus teachings?

What kind of freedom is Jesus speaking of?

Some answers.

Who is Jesus talking to? - To Jews who had ALREADY believed, but this did not make them disciples because Jesus called them to hold to his teaching. Everyone must hold on to and follow the teachings of Jesus to be a true disciple.

We cannot go by our feelings - but by the Bible. It is only the TRUTH that makes you free.

Sincerity does not equal truth. Have you ever believed something sincerely but been wrong? (Give an illustration.) It is ONLY when you hold to God’s Word that we are Christians - THEN THE TRUTH WILL MAKE US FREE.

Religious people can be wrong. (Consider Saul, Acts 8 & 9.)

II Timothy 4:1 - 4

What does this text assume about false teachings?

Why can false teachers get away with being false?

What can you do to make sure and not fall for false teaching?

Some answers.

Not everyone will like what the Word of God says because it may disagree with what they want.

Some people will turn away from the TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD - and will turn to people who will tell them what they WANT to hear.

It is essential that we go by what the Bible teaches even if we do not like what it says.

Acts 17:10 – 12

Why were the Bereans described by the Holy Spirit as “noble character?”

What does it mean to accept the word?

How would someone show that they are eager about the word of God?

Why is it important that they checked out what Paul was teaching?



Some answers.

A mark of noble character is an “eagerness” to receive the Word of God.

Note the fact that the Bereans examined what Paul said to see if it was true. We need to respect religious leaders, but it is important to examine from the Bible to see if what is being taught is true.

How often did they study the Bible? - EVERY DAY. These people were not even Christians yet but they daily searched the Scriptures. OUR CHALLENGE IS TO GET INTO THE WORD EACH DAY.

What did they do with the information? THEY BELIEVED. They were not studying the Bible just to learn new things but to gather enough information to make a DECISION. Note: It is a daily study of the Bible that will bring someone to the point of faith, **Romans 10:17**.

John 12:47, 48

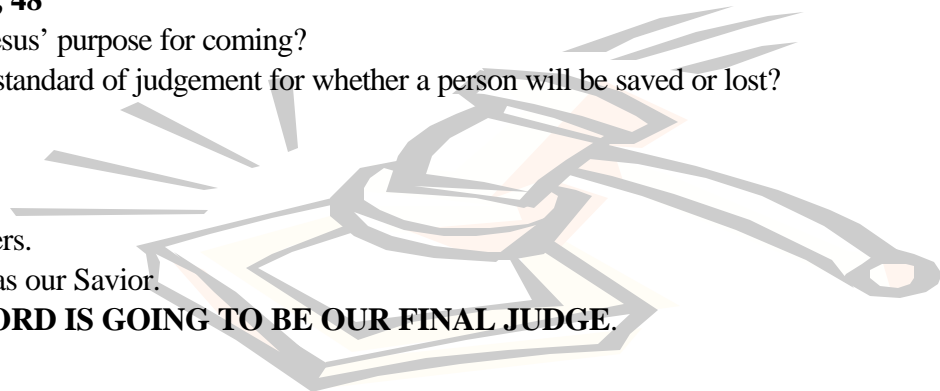
What was Jesus’ purpose for coming?

What is the standard of judgement for whether a person will be saved or lost?

Some answers.

Jesus came as our Savior.

GOD’S WORD IS GOING TO BE OUR FINAL JUDGE.



Application

Each of us must answer this question. Will I go by the Word of God ONLY - not by traditions, not by what religious leaders say, not by my feelings - but by the Word of God ALONE? **YES** or **NO**