

Basics: A Study of Scripture as The Word of God

- * What is meant by the phrase “the Word of God?”
- * There are actually several definitions of this phrase we can see from scripture itself!
- * First, let’s be very clear, honoring and respectful to scripture as the written explanation of the “Story of God and Man” and ultimately the “Revelation of Our Redemption!”
- * We must never ignore the place that The Word of God has in our lives!

I. Jesus: The Living Word of God, The Word Made Flesh.

- A. At times when scripture refers to The Word of God, it is speaking of the Person of Jesus Christ!

Revelation 19:11-13 (NIV)

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

1. I begin here because I think it is of utmost importance to realize that The Son is how God ultimately chose to express Himself to His creation!
2. Let’s be honest, it is much easier to interpret the life of a person than it is to interpret words and meanings on a page that was written in an ancient language!
3. Jesus SHOWS us rather than simply SPEAKING to us!

- B. The Lord Jesus was and is the expression, communication and very Word of God.

John 1:1 (NIV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God!

1 John 1:1 (NIV)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NIV)

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

1. The Son of God, His words and His life, is the communication of God's will and character!
2. If you ever think you see contradiction between the written Word and the life of Christ, and you actually will NOT, always default to the life of Christ!

II. God's Decree: The Word of God by Speaking.

A. We see at times The Word of God takes on the form of decrees.

1. These are times recording by someone when God speaks directly and things happen!

Genesis 1:3 (NIV)

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

2. We see this often in the creation story!

Psalms 33:6 (NIV)

6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

3. The decrees of God can be seen in the original creation but can also be realized in the continuation of creation right up to NOW!

Hebrews 1:3 (TPT)

3 The Son is the dazzling radiance of God's splendor, the exact expression of God's true nature—his mirror image! He holds the universe together and expands it by the mighty power of his spoken word.

III. Frequent references to "The Word of God" describe when God raises up prophets to speak to His people.

- A. These are times when God speaks "human words" spoken through "human lips" to ordinary people without truth and authority being lessened or diminished at all! It is considered God's word to those being spoken to.

Deuteronomy 18:18-20 (NIV)

18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. 19 I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. 20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

1. We see this same example and principle concerning Jeremiah, Isaiah, Amos and all of the prophets of the Old Covenant!

Jeremiah 1:9 (NIV)

9 Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth.”

2. We then see this transition under the New Covenant as God has chosen to reveal Himself and speak through Christ!

B. Today we can hear and see clearly the character and nature of God our Father! (Let’s read this scripture again!)

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NIV)

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

1. The perfect word of God was filtered through imperfect humans under the Old Covenant but God is perfectly expressed through the perfect God/Man Jesus Christ today!
2. Even though we can grapple at times with scripture, God is clearly plain and plainly clear seen through the life of Christ!
3. God did not just tell us...He showed us!
4. This also means that when we see what we think is a contradiction with a scripture reference and the life of Jesus, we land on the life of Christ and interpret scripture from there!
5. For example, the condemnation of slavery is not explicitly stated in scripture but one can easily determine the treatment of humanity from the life of Christ! (This also applies to many current events!)

IV. Lastly, as we study Scripture and The Word of God, we must respectfully acknowledge The Written Word of God, The Scripture.

A. The first record we have of God’s Word being put in “written form” is the Tablets of the Old Covenant.

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 (NIV)

12 Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. 13 Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

1. God told Moses to place these laws inside the Ark of the Covenant!

Deuteronomy 31:24-26 (NIV)

24 After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end, 25 he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord: 26 “Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God. There it will remain as a witness against you.

2. The “Written Word of God” was at the heart of the Old Covenant and the presence of God!
3. I firmly believe “God’s Written Word” should be at the heart of our New Covenant!
4. Notice some of the sayings of our Church Fathers!

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

2 Timothy 2:15 (VOICE)

15 Timothy, do everything you can to present yourself to God as a man who is fully genuine, a worker unashamed of your mission, a guide capable of leading others along the correct path defined by the word of truth.

(The Words of Truth as communicated in that day in that way!)

- B. We are so abundantly blessed as New Covenant Believers! We have the written Scripture readily available and we also have the Holy Spirit poured out to apply it to our lives!

John 14:26 (NIV)

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:26 (NLV)

26 The Helper is the Holy Spirit. The Father will send Him in My place. He will teach you everything and help you remember everything I have told you

John 14:26 (TPT)

26 But when the Father sends the Spirit of Holiness, the One like me who sets you free, he will teach you all things in my name. And he will inspire you to remember every word that I’ve told you.

- C. When we understand the context of this next scripture, it should energize us to learn to “live according to Christ’s words and example!”

1 John 2:27 (NLT)

27 But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.

1. Spoken in context of deception, the antichrist messages and persecution that killed leaders of the early church!
2. People we are scattering in fear of not knowing what to believe or how to live it...and John said, when there is no one to teach and lead, you still have The Holy Spirit!
3. How awesome it is to know how much God wants us to experience and walk in TRUTH!