

## Our Attitude Toward God's Word

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### ➤ Intro:

- last Sunday, talked about respect for God and His word
  - illus.: Israel, Ezra read law after returning from Babylonia captivity, people stood 3 hours to hear word read, 3 hours to hear it explained
- this lesson: our attitude toward the word of God

➤ **What is God's word?** – review

- **God's word is Scripture** – a record of His communication with man
  - recorded by **Moses**, what God commanded during the Patriarchal and Mosaic Dispensations
  - recorded by **prophets**, later in the Mosaic Dispensation
  - recorded by **apostles and prophets** at the beginning of the Christian Dispensation
  
- - **2 Tim. 3:16-17** all Scripture, inspiration (God's breathed) by God, **profitable for all we need**, resulting us in **completeness** (perfection, adequate), **equipping us for every good work** – guide to life, eternal
- - **2 Pet. 1:19-21** we have the **prophetic word made sure** (miraculous testimony of God), **inspiration, not act of human will, moved by God** – trust completely without any doubt
  - **Gal. 1:8-9** accursed (damned) if we **preach any other gospel** – anything other than word of God
  - **Gal. 5:4** if we obey a **different gospel**, we'll be **severed** from Christ, and **fall** from grace
  - **Rev. 22:18-19** we'll be **condemned** to hell if we **take away from, or add to**, God's word
  - if we do what God says in His word, we know we're doing the right things
    - **illus.: people want life boiled down to simple decisions, some read horoscopes and go to astrologist for insight on decisions they need to make** – just live the way God says in the Bible, nothing else matters, live on earth will be over soon anyway – **Ec. 12:13-14; Matt. 6:34; Ja. 4:14**
    - **illus.: more than anything, people want to know what will happen when they die** – believe what God says in Bible and do it – you know what will happen – **1 Th. 4:13-18**
  
- - **Jn. 17:17** God's word is absolute truth
  - **Ps. 119:160** the sum of God's word is truth – “word as a whole” = truth
  - **2 Tim. 2:15** must rightly divide word of truth
  - **2 Pet. 3:16** not twist to our won destruction
  - anything that contradicts God's word is a lie
    - **illus.: preacher says, if you want to be saved just pray a prayer of faith, receiving Jesus into your heart, and He'll wash away your sins right now** – lie
- - **Jn. 8:31-32** the truth sets us free from sin (spiritual bondage) when we obey it
- - **Rom. 6:3, 6-7** baptized, set free from sin
- - **Col. 2:12-13** baptized, raised up with Christ, faith, made alive together in Christ
- - **Eph. 2:4-8** made alive together with Christ, saved by **grace through faith**, seated with Christ in the heavenly places, to receive the surpassing riches of God's grace in Christ in the ages to come
  - how wonderful are the riches of God's grace which we are yet to receive? – paint pic of heaven
  
- - **Acts 26:18** God's word opens our eyes, turns us from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, so we may receive **forgiveness** of sins and an inheritance, **sanctified** by faith in Jesus
  
- - **Eph. 6:10-13, 17** God's word is the sword with which we **fight Satan and demons** (doctrine of demons)
  - **illus.: R - Rev. 19:11-16** Jesus brings down nations with the power of His word
  - know God's word, use it to defeat evil (illus.: Jesus tempted wilderness), and teach truth
  - **illus.: Michael contending with Satan** over body of Moses, “the Lord rebuke you”

➤ **Attitude: God's word has the power to save us**

- **Is. 55:11** God's word doesn't return to Him void (empty) – it does everything God declares
  - **illus.: R - Heb. 1:1-4** power of His word, creation, sustaining the world (universe), purification of sins
  - **confidence in God's word:** total and complete, church, work on earth, salvation, judgment, heaven
- - **Rom. 1:16** gospel, power of God unto (*eis*, movement and contact) **salvation**, everyone who **believes**
- - **Eph. 5:26** washing of water with the word – believe, obey, baptized, saved - **Eph. 2:8**
  - **Acts 2:38, 41, 47** those who received the word, baptized, saved. added to church
- - **Jn. 1:1-4; 1 Jn. 1:1-2** Jesus is the Word of Life – word, power, salvation
  - **2 Tim. 1:9-10** Jesus brought life and immortality to light through the gospel
- - **1 Pet. 1:2** sanctifying work of Spirit, obey Jesus, sprinkled with blood
  - **1 Pet. 1:23** born again of the word – rf - **Jn. 1:12-13; 3:3-5**
  - **1 Pet. 2:2** grow in respect to **salvation** through the word
- - **Jn. 8:51-52b** keep word, never see death
  
- **God sends His word out to accomplish His will, it never returns void**
  - **God empowered His word to save us**
  - **if we obey, we'll be saved from our sins – confidence, hope**

- end Part I

- review: PP

- **inv.:** if you are not a Christian, will you not obey, and experience the power of God's word in your life, beginning today

➤ Pt. II

- **attitude toward God's word**

- **illus.: Israel, Ezra read law** after returning from Babylonia captivity, people stood 3 hours to hear word read, 3 hours to hear it explained

➤2 - **review: PP**

- **Do we have the proper attitude toward God's word?**

- **Attitude: I believe God's word** – convinced, convicted, want to worship God and be saved
  - **Mk. 1:14-15** Jesus, beginning of ministry, **repent and believe in the gospel** – power to save
    - Jesus came to seek and save the lost – preaching – those who believe are saved
  - **illus.: believe Beth**, she loves me, will keep the promises of marriage we made, covenant
    - **Beth: trust**, depend on, not doubt
    - **God: trust**, depend on, not doubt, His word
      - **God promises to always give good gifts** – trust always to do what's best, even if must suffer persecution
      - **God promises to always provide the necessities of life** – trust, not worry, put kingdom 1<sup>st</sup>
      - **God promises eternal life in heaven for everyone who believes and obeys** – confident when die, judgment
- - **Rom. 10:17** faith, the result of hearing the word
  - **illus.: Dad, tell us to do something as kids**, not obey, say, “You're not listening to me”
    - **spiritually hear = obey**
  - **illus. (positive): Bereans** received word, searched it daily, people obeyed and were saved
    - **when people search God's word** to know and obey the truth, many obey gospel, saved
    - **we must search the Scriptures for life**, meditate upon them all the time
  - **illus. (negative): Moses at Meribah**, be careful not to disbelieve, even for a second
    - **spoke to the rock**, but was commanded to strike it
      - **he was angry** at Israel's sinfulness, and lost control
    - **disobeyed**: didn't believe, or treat Him only
    - **punished**: Aaron died, Moses not permitted to enter Promise Land
      - **one mistake, one time**, didn't believe for just a minute
    - **application**:
      - **one mistake on earth can result in suffering** the rest of our lives
      - **one sin for which we don't repent will result in eternal punishment** in hell
- - **1 Cor. 1:21** God saves everyone who believe
  - **Rom. 1:16** gospel, power of God to salvation, everyone who believes
- - **Heb. 11:8a** like Abraham, hear, believe, obey
  - **Heb. 5:9** obey, saved
  - **2 Cor. 5:7** we walk by faith, not by sight
  - **illus.: firefighter, burning house**, 2 people sleeping, tells them to follow him and they'll be saved, one follows and the other tries to get our going a different way – **which one believed the firefighter?**
- - **Gal. 3:6-9** faith reckoned (accounting term, accounted as) **as righteousness**, like Abraham
  - **illus.: ledger, “X” in column** - righteous, unrighteous - born, sin, believe
- - **Gal. 3:26-29** when baptized into Christ – point believe and faith reckoned as righteousness
- - **Col. 2:12** baptized, faith in the working of God, made alive together with Christ
- **attitude: believe** God's word, **obey** God's word, **trust** God's word without any doubt, **know** we'll be with God for eternity in heaven

- **Attitude: I love God's word** – it's God's message, tells us how to live, worship, be saved
  - **2 Th. 2:10** we must love (agape, commitment) **the truth to be saved** – rf - Jn. 17:17
  - **Mk. 12:30** love (agape) God with a **heart, soul, mind, strength**
  - **2 Th. 2:3-12, 13, 14, 15** **not let anyone deceive us**, God's plan to have **deluding influences** in world so through who don't believe truth will be lost
  
- - **Ps. 119:97, 113-114, 163-168** **God's children love His law**
  - **want to** obey, please God, live as He commands – **meditate all the day**
  
- **illus.: love** (agape), **committed** to do what's best in every circumstance, **no matter the person cost**
  - **a man loves a woman**, a walks to the end of the earth to make her happy
  - **a woman loves a man**, and works day and night to see that her husband succeeds
  - **parents love a child**, and sacrifice their personal desires so the child has all he needs and succeeds in life
  - **God loves us**, and gave His only begotten Son
  - **Jesus loves us**, and died on the cross so we could be saved
  - **do you love God's word?**
    - **would you walk to the end of the world** for the word of God?
    - **would you work day and night** to see that God's word succeeds?
    - **would you sacrifice your personal desires** for the word of God?
    - **would you give up your life**, to live as the word commands?
    - **would you die on a cross if necessary**, to stay true to God's word?
  
- **How is your love for God's word evident to people around you?**
  - word, deed, attitude, worship, faith, trust, commitment, respect
- - **Phil. 1:27a, 28-30** **conduct** yourself in a **worth manner of the gospel** – **even when suffering**
- - **Col. 1:9-11** **Christian, empowered through knowledge of God's word**, walking in a manner worth of the Lord, pleasing Him in all respect, bearing fruit in every good work, strengthened with power, sharing in the inheritance of the saints
  
  
- **end Part II**
  - **review: PP**
  - **inv.:** if you are not a Christian, will you not obey, and experience the power of God's word in your life, beginning today – **baptized into Christ, faith reckoned as righteousness**

➤ Pt. III

- **attitude toward God's word**

- **illus.: Israel, Ezra read law** after returning from Babylonia captivity, people stood 3 hours to hear word read, 3 hours to hear it explained

➤ 4 - **review: PP**

- God's word: Scripture, truth, open eyes, forgiveness, weapon against Satan / Word has power to save us / believe word / love word

- **Do we have the proper attitude toward God's word?**

- **Attitude: I'll obey God's word at any cost** – because I believe and love (commitment) the word
  - **James: we must be effectual doers of the word**
    - **Ja. 1:18** God brings us forth, out of sin to be saved, by the **word of truth (rf - Jn. 17:17 word of God)**
    - **Ja. 1:21** receive word implanted, able to save souls
      - **illus.: like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word**, so that by it you grow in respect to **salvation (1 Pet. 2:2)**
    - **Ja. 1:22** prove yourselves doers of the word, and **not just hearers** who **delude themselves**
      - **illus.: not be like person who looks at themselves in mirror**, sees what he needs to do to improve himself, turns away from the mirror, and **forgets, deluding himself** that he's perfect and needs no improvement (Ja. 1:23-24)
    - **Ja. 1:25** look intently at law of liberty, abide in it, **not forgetful hearer, effectual doer, blessed**
      - **law of liberty is our mirror:** the law of Christ which sets us free (gives us liberty)
      - **not forgetful hearer:** must apply to life
      - **effectual doer:** must be effective, not just spinning your spiritual wheels
      - **blessed:** God will bless you if you are an effectual doer of His word
    - **Ja. 1:22a, 26-27** prove yourself a doer
      - **test: bridle tongue, visit orphans and widows, keep self unspotted from world – acid test (Mike Matthews)**
- - **James: our faith must be an obedient faith**
  - **Ja. 2:14** rhetorical question, faith without the associated works (disobedient) doesn't result in salvation
    - **illus: see Christian in need of food and clothing, do nothing, faith not effective (Ja. 2:15-16)**
  - **Ja. 2:17** faith without the associated works is dead – disobedient
    - **Ja. 2:26** faith without works is dead – disobedient, dead faith, results in eternal death
  - **Ja. 2:18-20** just believing in God (without works, disobedient) is useless
    - **vs. 19** “faith only” (disobedience) **doctrine is of demons – result is damnation**
      - **illus.: popular false doctrine: all you have to do is believe – pray prayer of faith and you'll be saved**
    - **Ja. 2:26** faith without works (disobedient faith) is dead – dead faith
  - **Ja. 2:21-26** man justified by works, and **not faith alone** (only) – justified only if have obedient faith
    - **illus., story: Abraham, offered up Isaac on altar**
      - cf - obedient faith vs. faith only of demons (disobedient faith)
    - **illus., story: Rahab, received messengers (spies), sent out other way**
      - cf - obedient faith vs. faith only of demons (disobedient faith)



➤ - **Why is it important to obey God's word?**

- **Ps. 119:105, 133 lights our path** – shows us the way to go, decisions to make, leads us to heaven
- **Ps. 119:9, 101 keep our way pure**, by keeping it according to God's word
- **Ps. 119:105-112 attitude**

- - **1 Pet. 1:2, 22-23; Heb. 5:9 must obey Jesus (word) to be saved** - obey Jesus = obey word
- **illus: days of Noah, everyone perished in the flood except 8 souls, because they obeyed**
    - Noah, preacher of righteousness, built ark, saved himself and family
  - **1 Pet. 3:21-22 antitype, baptism now saves us** – obedience

- - **2 Cor. 10:5-6; Heb. 2:2 punished if we don't hear and obey**
- **disobedience:** Greek, *parakoe* (par-ak-o-ay'), hearing amiss, failing to hear, disobedience, appearing in 2 Cor. 10:5-6; Heb. 2:2
  - **illus.: Saul's unlawful sacrifice** – heard amiss, failed to hear, disobeyed
    - **1 Sam. 13:5-7 impending war with Philistines**, Israel scattered
    - **1 Sam. 13:8-10 Saul's sin, offered unlawful sacrifice**, not believe, not trust, not wait, disobeyed to sacrifice
    - **1 Sam. 13:11-12 Saul's sinful reasoning** – thought ok to sin in order to obey (ends justify means)
      - **vs. 12 thought forcing himself to sin in order to do good would excuse him** – wrong
    - **1 Sam. 13:13-14 Saul, foolish, kingdom given to another**, man after God's won heart – punished
      - **God looking for people to trust him and obey no matter what!** - Abraham, Rahab, David with Goliath
      - **God holds us accountable for hearing His word and obeying – no excuses!**
        - **1 Sam. 15:26 when we sin, we have rejected the word of the Lord** - punished
          - **illus.: Saul not utterly destroy Amalekites**, brought back king, and best animals to sacrifice, punished – better to obey than to sacrifice
        - **2 Sam. 12:9 when we sin, we despise the word of God**
          - **illus.: David arranged for Uriah to be killed to battle**, so he could marry Bathsheba and hide the fact that he had committed adultery and she became pregnant – punished

➤ **Attitude: I'll be judged by God's word**

- **Jn. 12:48** judged by Jesus' words – rf - **Ja. 2:12** judged by the law of liberty

- **illus.:** rich man was about to die and wanted to give away his money, put commercials on TV, everyone who downloaded a copy of his 200 page will, and abided by the terms, would receive a million \$

- news covered the story, found it to be **credible** – **nothing immoral in the terms**

- everyone talked about it, all the time

- **How many people would download a copy?**

- how many would **memorize** it what it said

- how many would **scrutinize** every detail

- **know it from cover to cover** – backwards and forwards

- **How many would do what it said?**

- **how much time** would people put into doing everything, and **documenting** what they did

- **what priority** would people put on doing what it said

- **What should our attitude be toward God's word and judgment?** - cf. above

- **I'll be judged by Jesus' word - I'm going to learn** every bit of it, live by it – **top priority**

- **the reward I'll receive is greater** than a million \$, millions and billions and trillions . . . of times over

➤ - **Acts 13:44-46** if we reject the word, we judge ourselves unworthy of eternal life

- **illus.:** rich man's will, if not comply with terms, judge selves unworthy of \$1M

- **if disobey God's word, already judge ourselves before judged in heaven**

- **Jn. 3:18, 19-21** believe in Jesus not judged (condemned), **not believe been judged** (condemned) already, because not believed in the name (authority) of Jesus

➤ - **Rev. 11:17-19** judgment, saints rewarded in heaven – judgment of the dead, heaven opened to the elect

- **Rev. 20:11-21:7** judgment, punishment of unbelievers, **reward of the saints in heaven**

**Summary / Inv.**

- **review: PP**

- **inv.:** obey the word, judged by it one day, rewarded in heaven if you obey and die in the Lord – **Rev. 2:10**