

Remnant Life Church

September 22, 2019

The Word of God:

Authority – Pt 2

Matt 7:24-27

The Word of God

- How it came to be through the writing
- Attempts to destroy it through history
 - From the 3rd century Roman emperor Diocletian
 - From the atheistic Russian leaders (Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev) of the 20th century to modern day China where Bibles are banned and must be smuggled in to the country)
- It is inerrant, infallible, sufficient for faith and life

Review:

- The Word of God has authority over...
 - Our reasoning
 - Our minds
 - Our beliefs
 - How many blessings of God have we missed because we would surrender our thinking?
 - The church
 - Jesus is the head of the church
 - Jesus is the purpose the church was brought into existence
 - The church is here to serve Jesus not the other way around
 - Church leaders
 - All must be submitted to the authority of the Word in their own lives
 - Hypocrisy will kill not only a ministry but damage the church
 - People being hurt in church can most often be traced back to the leadership – action or failure to act

1. Authority over tradition

- a. Too much of what the church values so highly today is tradition rather than Scripture
 - i. Programs and events have taken the place of teaching the Word and living out what we learn
 - ii. For some, the tradition has been so long-standing that many think it is Scripture
 1. One of those that I grew up in is the order of the service and how things are done every Sunday
 2. How often have we missed something the Holy Spirit wanted to do, but it didn't fit within the service schedule?
 3. My opinion?
- b. Jesus had a very strong rebuke to the Pharisees regarding their love of tradition
 - i. **READ - Matt 15:1-7a** - *Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, "Why do your disciples break*

the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is 'devoted to God,' they are not to 'honor their father or mother' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites!

- ii. **Col 2:8** - *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.*
- c. The traditions of the church can never be placed over the truth and the authority of the Word of God

2. Authority over feelings and experiences

- a. One of the most dangerous phrases used by Christians today is, "I felt led to..." do or say something
- b. No Christian is free of the untrustworthiness of his/her feelings
- c. In the Psalms
 - i. **47:5** - *Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*
 - ii. **77:1-3** - *I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted. I remembered you, God, and I groaned; I meditated, and my spirit grew faint*
- d. This is not to say that our emotions, feelings, and experiences are not of value or importance in our lives
 - i. God gave us our emotions
 - ii. Jesus experienced emotions – with His disciples, with the Pharisees, at His preparation to go to the cross (sweat drops of blood)
 - iii. He gave us our feelings as a way to understand and express those emotions
- e. Today feelings and emotion have been elevated to the place of dictating action – not only of that person but everyone else is expected to change what they do to accommodate feelings
- f. But no emotion, no feeling, and no experience of our lives can ever be a substitute for the authoritative Word of God
- g. **Prov 3:5-6** - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Through the ego and pride of man, we have elevated our minds, our knowledge, our science, and our reasoning to a place that sits over and above everything else – even the Bible! What does the Bible call that kind of person? A fool!

READ - Matt 7:24-27 - *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.*

- What is your foundation built on this morning?
- If it is not under the authority of the Word of God, and if that Word is not put into practice, the winds and storms of life will bring your house down

- Peace and security in our lives is not about money, possessions, or even happiness

- It is about living the Word of God in our lives every day
 - Living in the security of knowing His Word is true and unchanging
 - Scientific “proof” is constantly changing with the excuse of new revelations
 - Recent archeological discoveries have changed their conclusions yet again, but we are told that science is the ultimate truth
 - So how inerrantly true can it be?
 - God’s Word never changes

- And living our lives submitted to the authority of the Bible is what brings joy, peace, and satisfaction to our lives as children of our loving, Almighty God