

Lesson 3 - How Shall We Handle the Words of God?

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Introduction: The essence of Christianity is coming to know God.

- A. Jesus wanted all men to find eternal life. (**Jn 17:3-4**)
- B. God wants us to know Him so that we might have fellowship with Him.
 1. Consider how you might begin a relationship with another. What must you learn?
 2. God wants us to know what He is like so that *we might change!* God has let us know that *He cannot change!* (**Mal 3:6; James 1:17; Heb 13:8**)
 3. All moral and doctrinal compromises *are a result of a failure to know God.*

I. Our salvation comes through the delivered words of the apostles.

- A. Jesus during His ministry chose apostles that would execute an essential work to the salvation of men. (**Jn 17:6-8**)
 1. Our very relationship with the Father and Son depends on how we handle these words. (**Jn 14:21-24; 15:7-8**)
 2. These words would in fact be a “law” with “commandments.” In other words they would “bind” and “loose” showing a defined path that we are to follow. (**Mt 16:18-19; 18:18**)
- B. It is shocking to see brethren today *casting aside these words* as if they are trivial!
 1. Consider a shared quote from a brother’s Facebook page.
"God said it, I believe it, that settles it"...Uhhh...no...God said it, someone translated it into your language divorcing it from its own culture, you read it with a preconceived belief lens, then interpreted it and became convinced in your heart you knew what meant even though it bore no resemblance to the original audience or culture it was spoken into to begin with..."
 2. This man proclaimed that the Bible was not authoritative! It asserts that you cannot understand *without the help of other men!*
 3. We must come to understand the place and work of the apostles so that we can have and understand the words of God! (**Eph 2:20**)

II. God has revealed His nature by delivering words that teach us to change

- A. God delivered words in the O.T. that men were expected to understand and obey.
 1. The Ten Commandments were *words* written on stone. These were *holy words*.
 2. God delivered *words* to the prophets that were to be handled very differently than the words of men. These *words were holy!* (**Deut 4:4-5, 10; Jer 1:9-10**)
 3. There were things that were inherently true about these *words because they came from God* and thus were holy! (**2 Sam 22:31**)
 4. God’s words are to be handled differently than any words of men.
 5. Nadab and Abihu were priests. Moses and Aaron knew that because God is holy men must stay within what God has revealed. (**Lev 10:1-3; Ex 28:36**)
- B. Jesus showed us how to handle the holy words given Him by the Father!
 1. Jesus would *only do* those things that He saw the Father do. Without instruction *He would do nothing!* (**Jn 5:19-20, 30**)

2. He wanted others *to test doctrine!* (**Jn 7:16-17**)
3. The respect for the words of God would lead Jesus *only to act* when the Father gives Him instruction. (**Jn 8:28-32; 12:32-33**)
4. This same attitude was to *be expected of all us* whom this precious word would be delivered! These words would become the N. T. (**Jn 12:48-50**)
5. This carefully delivered message *would not be added to* by Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Apostles. They delivered these words! (**Jn 16:12-13; Eph 3:5**)
6. Staying within these holy words alone is how we glorify God. (**1 Pt 4:11**)

III. Should we restore the church to the 1st century way of holiness?

A. Some say that we cannot use the Bible this way because of “cultural context.”

(American Christianity: Defend yourself, defend "biblical marriage", defend your faith, defend your borders.

Jesus Christianity: Identify with those who suffer and LOVE them. Relinquish political control and care for the least of these.) (Four words I've grown to fear: "The Bible is clear . . .")

1. When the words of God are redefined by men then men can justify anything.
2. When an epistle was given to one church it was to be given to other churches (cultures, generations) with understanding. (**Col 4:16; 1 Thess 5:27; 2 Pt 3:1-2**)
3. The work of the Holy Spirit and Apostles gives us a highway of holiness that was prophesied. The common man can read and understand it!
(Isa 35:8-10; Eph 3:3-4)
3. The early church was founded upon and sustained by the apostle’s doctrine.
(Acts 2:42; Eph 2:20)
4. Do not let men take your Bible from you! (**Acts 11:14**)
5. Do not let anyone take you captive and close your Bible. (**Col 2:8**)

"I consulted the philosophers ... I found them all alike proud, assertive, dogmatic; professing - even in their so-called skepticism - to know everything; proving nothing, scoffing at one another. This last trait ... struck me as the only point in which they were right. Braggarts in attack, they are weaklings in defense. Weigh their arguments, they are all destructive; count their voices, each speaks for himself alone ... There is not one of them who, if he chanced to discover the difference between falsehood and truth, would not prefer his own lie to the truth which another had discovered. Where is the philosopher who would not deceive the whole world for his own glory?" - 18th century philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau

B. Have we created a “man-made hermeneutic” in “CENI?” God’s word communicates!

1. Because God used words to reveal His will then *we must understand* that these words will: 1. ***Tell us something*** (direct statement or command)
2. ***Show us something*** (example) 3. ***Imply something*** (we draw conclusions).
2. When you reject any of these principles you have *rejected the use of words*.

C. The Lord’s Supper *was delivered* to the Corinthians from which there would be a right way and a wrong way to keep it! (**1 Cor 11:23, 20**)

D. Consider who God honors in heaven! The work of the apostles is much more than a narrative! (**Rev 18:20; 21:14**)

Conclusion: The holiness of God demands that we seek only that which is apostolic!