

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 1st
 - **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 alter**
 - 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**