

## The Word

- I. What is the Word? It is God's divine revelation to humankind
  - A. In past times, the Word was delivered through the prophets (Heb 1:1)
  - B. The Apostle Paul called the writings of the Prophets Scripture (Rom 16:26)
  - C. Jesus called the Word of God Scripture (John 10:35)
    1. Jesus publicly read Scripture in Jewish worship (Luke 4:16-21)
    2. Jesus quoted Scripture to resist Satan and temptation (Luke 4:4, 8, 12)
    3. Jesus cited prophecy from Old Testament Scriptures (Matt 15:8-9, 13:14-15)
    4. Jesus used Scripture in His teaching (Matt 22:37-40, 21:42)
  - D. God's message for the Christian age was delivered through His Son, Jesus (Heb 1:2)
    1. Jesus was called the Word (John 1:14)
    2. Jesus (The Word) is deity (John 1:1)
  - E. After Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit was sent to reveal God's truth to the Apostles (John 14:26; I Cor 2:12-13)
    1. The Apostles preached and wrote letters based on God's Word (II Thess 2:15)
    2. These writings were also known as Scriptures (II Pet 3:14-16)
  - F. In the early Church, the Apostles devoted themselves to the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4)
    1. Paul preached the Word in worship on the first day of the week prolonging His message until midnight (Acts 20:7)
    2. Christians devoted themselves to the Apostles teachings (Acts 2:42)
    3. Christians were taught the Word and being noble-minded examined the Scriptures daily to verify the truth of those things they were being taught (Acts 17:10-11)
- II. God's Word is described in many ways
  - A. It is called the seed (Matt 13:19-20; Luke 8:11) from which Christians grow (1 Pet 1:23)
  - B. It is called the oracles of God (Rom 3:2)
  - C. It is called the Holy Scriptures (Rom 1:2) and Scriptures of the Prophets (Rom 16:25-26)
  - D. It is Truth (John 17:17) - the Word of Truth (James 1:18)
  - E. It is the sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17)
  - F. It is the Gospel (Col 1:5)
  - G. It is said to be living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Heb 4:12)
  - H. It abides forever (Is 40:8; I Pet 1:25)
  - I. It can bring persecution to those who live it (Matt 13:21; 5:11)
- III. What is the role of the Word in the Lord's Church?
  - A. Church leaders are to teach the Word to the brethren (Heb 13:7)

- B. Elders are to hold fast to the faithful Word (Titus 1:9)
    - 1. To exhort others with sound doctrine
    - 2. To refute those who contradict
  - C. Christians are to speak sound doctrine and sound doctrine comes from the Word (Titus 2:1)
    - 1. Scripture is authoritative - we are to speak as it were the utterances of God (I Pet 4:11)
    - 2. Scriptures are inspired (II Tim 3:16)
    - 3. Apollos used Scripture to refute error and prove that Jesus is the Christ (Acts 18:27-28)
  - D. Doctrine must be correct - it matters what we teach
    - 1. When Apollos was teaching without all the facts, Priscilla and Aquila explained to him the Word of God more accurately (Acts 18:24-26)
    - 2. James 3:1 notes that teachers will incur a stricter judgment
  - E. Christians are commanded to study and know the Word (II Tim 2:15)
    - 1. To be approved by God (II Tim 2:15)
    - 2. That they may grow in respect to salvation (I Pet 2:2)
    - 3. To be ready to give a defense (I Pet 3:15)
- IV. How can we ever hope to master the Word and develop our understanding of Scripture?
- A. By individual study (II Tim 2:15)
  - B. By searching the Scriptures (John 5:39)
  - C. By reasoning and discussing (Acts 17:2)
  - D. By being taught (Acts 8:30-31; 17:10-11) and by receiving sound preaching (Acts 8:34-35)
  - E. By listening and asking questions (Luke 2:46)
  - F. By asking God for wisdom and understanding of His Word as you study (James 1:5)
- V. What is the power of the Word?
- A. It gives us life (Matt 4:4)
    - 1. It gives us eternal life and keeps us from judgment (John 5:24)
    - 2. It keeps us from seeing death (John 8:51)
  - B. It cleanses us (John 15:3) - sanctifies us (John 17:17)
  - C. It is able to save your soul (James 1:21)
  - D. It saves us if we hold fast (I Cor 15:2)
  - E. It brings us blessings (Luke 11:28)
  - F. At the last day, it will judge those who reject Jesus (John 12:48)
  - G. It can judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Heb 4:12)
  - H. It produces faith (Rom 10:17)
  - I. It brings us Godly approval when we study and learn it (II Tim 2:15)
  - J. It equips us to be teachers (Heb 5:11-13)
  - K. It makes us strong (I John 2:14)

L. If we keep His Word, the love of God is perfected in us (I John 2:5)

VI. How are we to use the Word?

A. We are to speak/preach/teach the Word to others (Mark 2:2;  
Acts 8:4, 25; 18:11)

B. We are not just to listen to the Word, we are to do what it says (James 1:22-25)

C. It is to be used for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness  
and gives Christians everything needed for every good work (II Tim 3:16-17)

D. It is to be spoken courageously with no fear (Phil 1:14)

E. It is not to be corrupted or used for personal gain (II Cor 2:17; 4:1-2)

F. We are not to change it (Gal 1:6-9; Rev 22:18-19)

1. Those who distort God's Word bring about their own destruction (II Pet 3:16)

2. Those who follow such error fall from steadfastness (II Pet 3:17)

VII. The Prophet Hosea told the people that God had rejected them for their "lack of knowledge" (Hos 4:6). We must not make the same mistake!