

## Living Life Well- the word of God

Psalms 1

***I wonder how do you view the word of God. How do you look upon the bible? What power do you think it has?***

**Is the bible the word of God?**

**Three possible answers**

- 1. It is not the word of God**
- 2. It contains the word of God**
- 3. It is the word of God.**

**Its not the word of God.**

**What sort of things would make this statement the truth.**

There is no would have universal appeal. God is the God of the universe.

There is no generational appeal.

Universal principles would not be found.

It would not give us answers and encouragement for life and towards God.

All predictions would not come to pass.

It would not have a common theme/thread.

**It only contains the 'word of God'.**

**A common misconception 'the bible contains the word of God'.** This is a liberal thought and one which is misleading at best and/ or heresy at worst.

**The main problem is 'which part is the word of God' and which part isn't.**

Two different groups of people espouse this teaching.

1. Those that don't want to change their world to match the bible.
2. Those that match the bible to their world belief of 'many paths to God'.

Let's have a look at each of these quickly?

## Those that don't want to change their world to match the bible.

These people love their world and can't see the reason to change it according to a contrary set of principles. They would rather continue in their lifestyle, knowing that they are wrong because it feels good.

As time continues their conscience gets seared and they increasingly find it difficult to judge between right and wrong.

Their vision gets blurred.

The whole legal system of our world fails many people because it is based on the goodness of man not the goodness of God. 'I Haven't done wrong. I wasn't at fault because my uncle yelled at me. I lived in the wrong area. I have a mental illness.' Although these are all true, responsibility is still responsibility.

When we have an eternal truth to base our lives on it would be easier to judge.

This group of people who don't want to change their world need a catalyst to force them to seek God. This catalyst is usually attached to a failed dream, broken promise, physical mishap or serious illness or death in their cycle of friends.

When these events happen it is up to us as Christians to gently point them to God.

Can I pray for you?

Can I ask God to help you?

## Those that match the bible to their world belief of many paths to God.

Finding a way to God is a constant appetite of man. Inherent in the belief of God is that God would make a way to get to God. Man wants to know about God or a supreme being. He wants to get to know God. He wants to find God. **Could there be more than one way to God?** The answer to that would be yes IF God hadn't shown us the way to heaven.

As society changes the message of Jesus will come under increasing attack from people with well meaning motives. If we endeavor to only take out that which is applicable to us we run the risk of ruling out something or changing the meaning of something to match our world. Again the problem here is that the premise about the 'goodness of man'. Man if left alone is not good. Truth is not shifting. It remains stable.

Physical Truth remains the same.. just sometimes not known. The world was always round not flat but we had to find something to prove that.

Man's understanding is limited. We don't know everything.

The bible cant just contain the truth because man of his limited knowledge and understanding would rule out those things which he deems at the time to be redundant or unnecessary according to his limited understanding.

Compare Mans understanding to that of God.

We cant attempt to match the bible to our limited world belief because we would limit God.

If we were to limit what God's word is then we may as well just have a social club rather than a church.

Either the bible is the word of God entirely or it isn't. Since we have shown that the statement 'it is not the word of God' is false we can then know the bible is the word of God ENTIRELY.

I believe in the power of the bible. It is the word of God entirely. We at The House believe in the bible. We believe it is the word of God entirely.

If we believe this then how should that direct our lives.

1. We should know it
  - a. Knowing the truth sets you free. Freedom comes from knowing God's word. John 8:32
  - b. If we know it we know God.
  - c. If we know it we can apply it
2. We should learn it
  - a. Memorizing the word is a constant challenge is an ever increasingly busy world.
  - b. But the fruits of knowing it are beyond value.

"Fill your head and your heart with the Scriptures. Memorize passages from the Word, with the name of the book, the chapter, and the verse, so that you can quote the Scripture correctly in addresses or in open-air meetings.

As you do this, you are sowing in your heart seeds, which the Spirit of God can germinate. He can bring to your remembrance from time to time that which you have once memorized. You must be so soaked with the Word of God, you must be filled with it, that you yourself are a living epistle, known and read of all men.

**Believers are strong only as the Word of God abides in them.**

The Word of God is spirit and life to those who receive it in simple faith, and it is a verifier of all who own its sway.

**Know your Book, live it, believe it, and obey it.** Hide God's word in your heart. It will save your soul, quicken your body, illumine your mind. The Word of God is full and final, infallible, reliable, and up-to-date, and our attitude towards it must be one of unquestioned obedience.

If a thing is in the Bible, it is so; it is not even to be prayed about; it is to be received and acted upon. Inactivity of faith is a robber, which steals blessing. Increase comes by action, by using what we have and what we know. Your life must be one of going from faith to faith."

**Smith Wigglesworth**

3. We should value it
  - a. Where is your bible today? I believe the best place for it to be is with us.
  - b. Do you own a bible? We give away bibles regularly to young people because we value the bible.
  - c. Its God's word.

### **The washing of the water of the word.**

The rod of God is constantly referred to as water throughout the bible. This is important as it gives us an understanding of how it works in our world.

When we plant a tree or a bush we need to regularly water it. Without water it dries up and dies. The same is said about a Christian, without the word of God going into your world you will dry up and die. Not literally but in other ways. Dying is about missing opportunities to grow and develop.

IN the subsoil of people's lives, lies dreams, desires, ambitions, plans, and visions. These are the necessary nutrients of someone's world. When the word of God is read it goes into the soil of some-ones life. It moistens your life and gives you the ability to bring these things to pass. It opens doors, provides opportunities', gives wisdom to overcome obstacles. The word of God is like water.

Isaiah 55:10-11

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

- ◆ God's Word is full of power; it will not return to Him empty.
- ◆ God's Word will accomplish His desires and purposes.
- ◆ God's Word has irresistible power!
- ◆ When you speak the Word of God, you are tapping into limitless power!

Jeremiah 23:28-29

Let the one who has my word speak it faithfully ... "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

Think of God's Word as a hammer. Picture it.

This hammer can drive home a nail = positive results.

John 8:31-32, Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed him, If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

His Word will set you FREE!

Ps 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

The Word of God in our hearts is a powerful antidote to sin.

Luke 7 The story of the centurion

'Just say the word'

How do you view the bible? At the House we view it as the entire word of God for man. We want God to 'just say the word' and we will go.

We love God's word. We value it. We bring it to church. We read it regularly. We want to memorize it. We don't want to leave it to others, we want it ourselves.

It's the bible. It's the number one best selling book in all the world. It's the power to change the world.