

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

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The apostle Paul was “allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel,” and he kept that trust by speaking only the word of God (1 Thes 2:4). He did not corrupt God’s word (2 Cor 2:17), nor handle it deceitfully (2 Cor 4:2). He assured the Corinthian brethren that his speech and preaching “was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (1 Cor 2:4). Similarly, he certified the Galatians that the gospel that he preached to them was not after man (Gal 1:11). In fact, a curse is pronounced on anyone, be it a man or even an angel from heaven, who preaches any other gospel (Gal 1:8-9). The reason for this curse is that only the word of God, the gospel of Christ, has the power to save mankind (Rom 1:16).

The one and only standard for mankind

God’s word is what reveals to man what is right and what is wrong. There is no other way for us to know our Creator’s will. In Deuteronomy 30:11-15, Moses told the Israelites, “For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. See, *I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.*” The New Testament also tells us that becoming skillful in the word of righteousness will enable us to exercise our senses to discern both good and evil (Heb 5:13-14). Psalm 119:105 says, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” In John 12:48, Christ declared that the word he has spoken will judge us on the last day. God’s word is the one and only standard that will determine where we will spend our eternity (Rev 20:11-15).

Our spiritual mirror

Not only does God word tell us what is right and wrong, when we study it and examine ourselves, it reveals to us whether or not we are indeed walking in the right path. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that God’s word separates and discerns even the thoughts and intents of our heart. In his lifetime, Paul was anticipating the completion of the revelation of the New Testament (1 Cor 13:10-12). At that time, he said that “then shall I know even as also I am known.” We indeed have the opportunity to

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(continued)

know ourselves and whether or not we are living our lives as our Creator has commanded us to. James 1:22-25 describes God's word as a spiritual mirror. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." Similarly, John 3:20-21 says, "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

From start to finish

We see in 1 Peter 1:23 that it is by God's word that a man is born spiritually: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." A few verses later, we learn that it is the milk of God's word that gives growth to spiritual babies: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Hebrews 5:13-14 says, "For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." The Greek word translated here as "full age" is *teleios*, which means "complete." Therefore, we can see that God has given a revelation to man that teaches him how to become a child of God, and then how to grow from spiritual babyhood to completion. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: *that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Tim 3:16-17). *All things that pertain to life and godliness* are provided in the New Testament, with the ultimate goal of making us "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Pet 1:3-4). Thus, we need to take heed to James 1:21 which exhorts us to "lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, *which is able to save your souls.*"