

# GOD'S WORD VERSUS MAN'S

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In Matthew 12:30, Jesus stated, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." This certainly applies to what is taught in the realm of what pertains to life and godliness. All such things can only be found through the knowledge of Christ (2 Pet 1:3). Only by hearing God's word can we have faith in God (Rom 10:17). Through the wisdom of men, it is impossible to know God (1 Cor 1:21). Hearing the wisdom of men will produce faith in man's wisdom (1 Cor 2:4-5). Sadly, there are many false teachers among us today, and many Christians are following their pernicious ways (2 Pet 2:1-2). Therefore, it is vital for us to know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error, and listen only to God's word and not man's (1 John 4:5-6).

## **Repentance of evildoers**

The lies of Israel's false prophets caused the people to err (Jer 23:13,32). Such is the nature of the word of man. Those false words spread profaneness in the land (Jer 23:15), made men vain (Jer 23:16), and caused men to forget God (Jer 23:27). The word of men accomplishes this by making false promises of peace and removing the belief in and fear of ultimate divine judgment and retribution (Jer 23:17). The word of man does not profit people at all (Jer 23:32). Jeremiah 23:14 testifies that the words of the false prophets strengthened the hands of evildoers "that none does return from his wickedness." People who listen to the wisdom of men will not come to repentance. But the word of God has the exact opposite effect. God's word, including His threats of punishment, is designed to bring about the repentance of evildoers (Jer 18:6-8,11; 26:1-6; Joel 2:1-14; Amos 4:6-11; Jonah 3:4-4:2,10-11). God made man (Gen 1:27; 5:1-2; Isa 45:12), and God knows all about his creation (John 2:24-25). God knows exactly what man needs to hear to bring him to repentance and does not need any being, especially lowly man, to try to improve on what He has said. God asked Judah in Jeremiah 23:18: "For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord, and hath

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perceived and heard his word? who has marked his word, and heard it?" God said that if the prophets "had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings" (Jer 23:22). God said, "He that has my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord. Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces (Jer 23:28-29)?" Man's word is only chaff and provides no spiritual nourishment. It is worthless. Only God's word is wheat and only it has power like a fire and like a hammer (see also Heb 4:12; Hos 6:5).

## **Overcoming sin**

Sin is what separates man from God (Isa 59:2). Colossians 1:21 tells us that man's wicked works have made him alienated and enemies of God. God's word is the incorruptible seed that is able to make man born again, alive to God with his sins forgiven (1 Pet 1:23). God's word also has the power to help man overcome the sins which previously beset him with such ease. The psalmist wrote, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, *that I might not sin against thee*" (Psa 119:11), and, "Order my steps in thy word: and *let not any iniquity have dominion over me*" (Psa 119:133). The New Testament is also written unto us *that we sin not* (1 John 2:1). Faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom 10:17), and that "shield of faith" is able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one (Eph 6:16). The great promises that come with eternal life are for those who *overcome*. "To him that overcometh" will eat of the tree of life (Rev 2:7), will not be hurt of the second death (Rev 2:11), will eat of the hidden manna (Rev 2:17), will receive power over the nations (Rev 2:26), will be clothed in white raiment (Rev 3:5), will be a pillar in the temple of God (Rev 3:12), and will sit with Christ in his throne (Rev 3:21). "*He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son*" (Rev 21:7).