

Every Word

This topic would fit in another installment of “Cut and Paste Christianity” or even building on our relationship with God. We speak of these scriptures every week.

Living by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God is mentioned in both the Old and the New Testaments.

Beginning in the Old Testament (**Deuteronomy 5**), after wandering in the wilderness for forty years, Moses was reminding those who were going to cross over to the Promised Land of what God had commanded them.

Deuteronomy 8:3- “And He humbled you and allowed you to hunger, and then He fed you with manna which you did not know, neither did your fathers know *it*, so that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone; but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live.”

He did not say “every other word” of God, he said “**every word**” of God. That is plain and simple.

In the New Testament, Jesus was speaking to Satan as He was being tempted.

Matthew 4:4- “But He answered *and* said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of *the* mouth of God.’ ”

Luke 4:4- “But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’ ”

It is critical for understanding God and His word to *read*, to *know*, and ***do*** every word of it. Negating one word from the Bible violates what God said for us to do in it. How many times have you heard those who profess to be “Christians” to comment, “the Old Testament is for the Jews, usually referring to the Sabbath. Also, “it was nailed to the cross” in referring to the doing away with the law.

We know from our studies that the Sabbath was established at creation at least two thousand years or so before the first Jew ever walked the Earth. But if one believes that the Old Testament was “done away with” it is understandable why they miss this fact.

Jesus clarifies His purpose and emphasizes the importance of the Law. This scripture too is twisted to mean that “everything has been fulfilled.” Jesus’ earthly mission was fulfilled but the events of Revelation *have not yet* taken place.

Matthew 5:17-18- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled.”

Paul in his letter to the Church at Colossae reminded them that the debt of their sins had been nailed to the cross.

Colossians 2:14- “He has blotted out the note of debt against us *with* the decrees of *our sins*, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross.”

Nothing was done away with (the Law) and nothing was nailed to the cross (except our sins). A motive for this disturbing view is once God and His Commandments are out of the picture, what is left is the unclear and open principle to “just be a good person,” that is enough. Another twist on scripture without reading *all* of

God's word is, "if you are good you will go to heaven." Without going into what happens when we die (**Genesis 3:19**) and nobody goes to heaven (**John 3:13**), we will just nullify "who is good" for now.

Jesus Himself clarified who was good and basically who was not.

Matthew 19:16-17- "Now at that time, one came to Him *and* said, "Good Master, what good *thing* shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except one—God. But if you desire to enter into life, keep the commandments."

Mark 10:17-18- "And as He went out to the road, one came running up and knelt down before Him, and asked Him, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" But Jesus answered him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except one; that is God."

Luke 18:18-19- "And a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Then Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One—God."

Nobody is good except God. If *nobody* is considered good but God, how can any human think they will measure up and “go to heaven?” Even if going to heaven were a real possibility, no one would be good enough to get there. Lack of Biblical knowledge leaves the door wide open for “once upon a time” theologies.

One of the reasons so many want to invalidate the Old Testament is there are a lot of instructions for us to follow in it. Heaven forbid! Do we have to work for the gift of eternal life? Rules? Commandments and Holy Days?! That sinner prayer seems like the effortless way out...or up. Actually, it only leads down to the grave consequences for disobedience are listed throughout God’s word.

Deuteronomy 8:11-14- “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command you today, Lest when you have eaten and are full and have built goodly houses and lived in them, And when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, Then you become **haughty of heart**, and you forget the LORD your God Who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage,”

Deuteronomy 8:18-20- “But you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He Who gives you power to get wealth, so that He may confirm His covenant which He has sworn to your fathers as it is this *very* day. And it shall be if you do **at all** forget the LORD your God and walk after other gods serving them and worshiping them I testify against you this day that **you shall surely perish—yes, perish.** As the nations whom the LORD destroys before your face, **so you shall perish because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.**”

God’s words are not complicated to understand. Ignoring them will not make them go away.

Matthew 24:35- “The heaven and the earth shall pass away, **but My words shall never pass away.**”

We have also discussed in numerous studies that God knows the heart. This week’s essay touched briefly on this as well. God knows our heart and our motives of how and why we act towards or serve others.

Psalm 44:20-21- "If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god, Shall not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart."

Proverbs 24:12- "If you say, "Behold, we did not know it," does not He who searches the heart consider *it*? And the Keeper of your soul, does He *not* know? And does He *not* repay to every man according to his works?"

We must not allow ourselves to dislocate our shoulders trying to pat ourselves on the back. Seeking prominence or recognition is contrary to the character of Jesus Christ.

Luke 16:15- "And He said to them, "You are those who justify themselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination before God."

Our motives for service should not be complicated. If we apply the following scripture to our efforts, we will stay within the guidelines of God's word.

1 Corinthians 10:31- “Therefore, whether you eat, or you drink, or you do anything, do all things to the glory of God.”

Another aspect of not reading and knowing every word of God is that “God is a mystery.” This is more than believable as most people do not bother to have a personal relationship with Him. It is more obvious to “play church” where they can be seen by others. Focus on the self will always keep God mysterious. He will not waste pouring His Spirit into a vessel with cracks.

Matthew 13:10-17- “And His disciples came to Him and asked, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” And He answered *and* said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has *understanding*, to him more shall be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have *understanding*, even what he has shall be taken away from him. For this reason I speak to them in parables, because seeing, they see not; and hearing, they hear not; neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which says, ‘In hearing you shall hear, and in no way understand; and *in* seeing you shall see, and in no way perceive; For the heart of this people has grown fat, and their ears are dull of

hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and should hear with their ears, and should understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them.’ But blessed *are* your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you, many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see what you see, and have not seen; and to hear what you hear, and have not heard.”

We have been blessed with the infilling of God’s Holy Spirit at baptism.

Understanding and discerning spiritual matters cannot be accomplished through the flesh.

1 Corinthians 2:10-16- “But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God. For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man which *is* in him? In the same way also, the things of God no one understands except *by* the Spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that *is* of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God; Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in *words* taught by *the* Holy

Spirit *in order to* communicate spiritual things by spiritual *means*. But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned. However, the one who is spiritual discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one. For who has known *the* mind of *the* Lord? Who shall instruct Him? But we have *the* mind of Christ."

Further steps found in scripture to support understanding God's word are given so that we may do all that He instructs.

Deuteronomy 29:29- "The secret things *belong* to the LORD our God, but the things *which are* revealed *belong* to us and to our children forever so that we may *do all the words of this law.*"

Psalm 25:14- "The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant."

God is not a mystery to those who seek Him with their whole hearts. He *will* reveal Himself to those who do. These are sequential building blocks for knowing and

growing our relationship with God; Love God with all your heart (**Matthew 22:37-38**). Be doers of the word not just hearers (**James 1:22-25**) Seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (**Matthew 6:33-34**). If you love Him, keep His commandments (**John 14:15**). *Mystery solved.*

God's word warns us as His called that our hearts and minds must be on Him. Conducting our worship with "self" or any focus other than God has penalties. Thinking we are religious and holy without the proper heart will cost us what we already have.

Matthew 25:29-30- "For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and *he* shall have abundance; on the other hand, *as for* the one who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken from him. And cast the worthless *servant* into the outer darkness.' There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Are we not servants of the Most High?

Mark 4:23-25- “If anyone has ears to hear, *let him hear.*” And He said to them, “Take heed *to* what you hear: *for* with whatever measure you use, it shall be measured back to you; and to those who hear, *it* shall be added. For whoever has, to him shall *more* be given; but the one who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken from him.”

We can all hear but those who actually “listen and do” what God instructs (with a humble contrite heart) will receive more (of His Spirit, wisdom, knowledge, discernment, etc.). Those with an improper motive will have whatever they think they know or have accomplished stripped away.

Luke 12:46-48- “The lord of that *servant* will come in a day that he does not expect, and in an hour that he does not know, and will cut him asunder, and will appoint his portion with the unbelievers. And that *servant* who knew the will of his lord, but did not prepare, nor did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes; But the one who did not know, and did things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For to whomever much has been given, from him shall much be required; and to whom much has been committed, from him they will demand the more.”

If we have been given a healthy dose of God's Holy Spirit, we had better be serving and doing what He created us to do. Utilizing the gifts we have been given is why we have them in the first place. Knowing that nothing in the Bible was done away with or abolished gives us full advantage of the wisdom and instructions found on every page.

Isaiah 28:9-10- "Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? *Those* who are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts, For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little;"

Reading the Old and New Testaments is the complete package. Nothing is left undone or open to fill in the blanks as we desire. We do not get to choose which Books and chapters we will obey. We put it all together from Genesis to Revelation and leave nothing out nor change one word of it. Saying the Old Testament was "done away with" and so many other man-made edits of God's word are *invalidated* in the last Book and chapter of the Bible.

Revelation 22:14-19- "Blessed *are* those who keep His commandments, that they may have the right to *eat of* the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

But excluded *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and fornicators, and murderers, and idolaters, and everyone who loves and devises a lie. I, Jesus, sent My angel to testify these things to you in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star.” And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who thirsts come; and let the one who desires partake of the water of life freely. For I jointly testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book, **that if anyone adds to these things, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the book of life, and from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book.**”

It is essential we as *servants* **keep** our spiritual condition ready for Christ’s return at all times. We have been given His truth and His instructions. We have His Holy Spirit, so we are ***without excuse***. We must trust in Him and **live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.**

Proverbs 30:5-6- “Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He correct you and you be found a liar.”

Amen.

BL-07/20/24