

Sermon

The Church and the Word of God

Hebrews 4:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:1-17

Jeff Jackson

“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”

According to the Guinness Book of World Records the Bible holds as the top seller of all time. The Bible is unique in regards to every other book of the world because it is not just a book of ideas, although it has the greatest ideas available to mankind, and it is not just a great story teller, although the events within its pages are captivating, but it is a living document that reveals our Creator. It's living because its subject matter is the living God Himself.

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

I. Authority

Notes: _____

John 17:17

Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

RC Sproul

The very word authority has within it the word author. An author is someone who creates and possesses a particular work. Insofar as God is the foundation of all authority, He exercises that foundation because He is the author and the owner of His creation. He is the foundation upon which all other authority stands or falls.

II. Seniority

Notes: _____

Matthew 15:1-3

Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, ²“Why do your disciples disobey our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat.”

³Jesus replied, “And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God?”

Matthew 15: 8-9 a quote from Isaiah 29:13

⁸ ‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁹ Their worship is a farce,
for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.

John Calvin

“The difference between us and the papists is that they do not think that the church can be 'the pillar of the truth' unless she presides over the word of God. We, on the other hand, assert that it is because she reverently subjects herself to the word of God that the truth is preserved by her and passed on to others by her hands.”

III. Priority

Notes: _____

II Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Charles Spurgeon

“There are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labour in his service. We ought to muse upon the things of God, because we thus get the real nutriment out of them. . . . Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in the divine life? Because they neglect their closets, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God's Word. They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they would have the corn, but they will not go forth into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs upon the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows at their feet, but they will not stoop to drink it. From such folly deliver us, O Lord. . . .”

C.S. Lewis

Scripture itself is not systematic; the New Testament shows the greatest variety. God has shown us that he can use any instrument. Balaam's ass, you remember, preached a very effective sermon in the midst of his 'hee-haws.'

CONCLUSION

The Word of God is living and active, and will not return void. God's Word is the measure of truth and judgment, revealing hope and grace, and gives the greatest account of all, God being made flesh.

We are often so busy in what we want to say to God that we often miss what God is saying to us. The Bible is the authority of the Christian faith which takes seniority over everything else. Therefore, let us leave making Scripture our priority because as we get into the Word may we let the Word get into us.