

The Anchor of Truth (Hebrews 6:18-20)

(We live in a slippery world, but God has given unchanging truth through the Scriptures, which is His Word, the Bible. All Scripture is for us, but all Scripture is not about us. God teaches us lessons from every word in the Bible, but He speaks mainly to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament and most of the New Testament is for us believe and obey today. Learn the difference between truths for us and about us and how God desires us to act toward believers and toward unbelievers.)

I. The Word of God is:

- A. Divinely inspired (2 Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12).
- B. Written by inspired men (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 23:2)
- C. Absolutely pure (Psalm 19:8; Proverbs 30:5)
- D. Perfect in unity (John 10:35)
- E. The supreme authority (Psalm 138:2; 119:128)
- F. Eternally permanent (Matthew 26:35; 1 Peter 1:25)
- G. Accepted by the Lord Jesus (Luke 24:27-45)
- H. Taken out of context and corrupted by men (2 Corinthians 2:17; 2 Peter 3:16)
- I. Made useless by traditions of men (Mark 7:13; 2 Timothy 4:4)

II. The Word of God is characterized by being:

- A. True - (Psalm 119:160).
- B. Truth - (John 17:17; Daniel 10:21).
- C. Perfect - (Psalm 19:7).
- D. Pure - (Psalm 12:6; 19:8; Proverbs 30:5).
- E. Changeless - (Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:18; 1 Peter 1:25).
- F. Cannot be separated from Christ, who is the Living Word (Hebrews 4:12,13).
- G. Magnified above all His name (Psalms 138:2).
- H. Every letter and comma will be fulfilled (Matthew 5:18).
- I. Eternally permanent - (Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; 1 Peter 1:25).

III. God has divided His Word: we must divide it accurately to be approved to God (2 Timothy 2:15).

- B. Old Testament - God's message to His earthly people Israel
 - 1. Told ahead of time of the coming of the Messiah (Genesis 3:15, etc.)
 - a. To suffer for our sins (Isaiah 53:5,10).
 - b. To set up His kingdom and reign over the earth forever (Psalm 146:10; Revelation 11:15).
 - (1) Promised to make Israel the head of the nations and not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:12,13).
 - 2. God put Israel under the law He gave to Moses (Exodus 19:8; Romans 3:2,19; Acts 13:39).
 - 3. Was written to teach us important lessons today (1 Corinthians 10:6).
- C. New Testament – presents:
 - 1. The coming of Christ to save His people (Galatians 4:4; Matthew 1:21).
 - 2. His reign over the earth in the coming day (Matthew 24:3; Luke 21:28; 1 Corinthians 15:24).
 - 3. God has put His heavenly people, the church, under the principle of grace (Romans 6:14).
 - 4. Different apostles present different truths:
 - a. The church of God through Paul (Ephesians 3:1-10).
 - b. The kingdom of God through Peter (2 Peter 1:11).
 - c. The family of God through John (1 John 2:13).
 - d. Prophecy through John (Revelation 1:3).

IV. What the Word of God Does:

- A. Convicts (Hebrews 4:12)
- B. Converts (Romans 10:17)
- C. Cleanses (John 15:3; Psalm 119:9-11)
- D. Consecrates (John 17:17)
- E. Corrects (2 Timothy 3:16)
- F. Confirms (John 8:31)
- G. Comforts (Psalm 119:50)
- H. Brings joy and rejoicing to the heart (Jeremiah 15:16)
- I. Energizes for service (Jeremiah 20:9)
- J. Makes us wiser than our teachers (Psalm 119:99)

V. God's Word is denied – even though the foundation of God stands sure (2 Timothy 2:19).

- A. False teaching (2 Corinthians 11:13,14) denies:
 - 1. The only Lord God and Saviour (Jude 4).
 - 2. That Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (1 John 4:3).
 - 3. The Lord's purchase of mankind, and His redemptive work through His blood (2 Peter 2:1).
 - 4. The resurrection of believers is already past (2 Timothy 3:18).
 - 5. The power of holiness (2 Timothy 3:1-5).
 - 6. Sound (healthy) doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3,4).
 - 7. All authority (Jude 8).
- H. Professing Christians depart from the faith, paying attention to false doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1,2).
 - 1. Seeing a going against what the Bible teaches today means that the Lord is coming soon to judge the world (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12).

VI. Study the Scriptures to:

- A. Be approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - 1. Live unto the Lord and not despise, judge, or offend our brother (Romans 14:3,4,15; 1 Corinthians 8:7-13; 10:19,20,27-33).
 - 2. Do good (Acts 10:38; James 4:17).
 - 3. Serve all men by being made all things to all men so as to edify all (1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 10:23,24).
- B. Not love the world (1 John 2:14,15).
 - 1. Be kept from the evil that is in the world (John 17:14-18).
 - 2. Not be conformed to the world (Romans 12:2).
- C. Know who not to have fellowship with (2 John 9, 1 Corinthians 5:11).
 - 1. Who not to listen to (Galatians 1:6-9).
- D. Know who to have fellowship with (1 Corinthians 1:1,9).
 - 1. Who to listen to (John 5:24).

VII. How to Study God's Word

(When studying, it is important to use a "verbal translation" of the Scriptures, which translates the Hebrew and Greek "words" (not phrases) to English, because God has seen fit to communicate His mind through "words"—1 Corinthians 2:13; John 8:47).

- 1. With a mind led by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-14)
- 2. With a willing mind (John 7:17)
- 3. With an obedient mind (James 1:21, 22)
- 4. With a teachable mind (Matthew 11:25)
- 5. With an unprejudiced mind (Exodus 3:5)
- 6. With open eyes (Psalm 119:18)
- 7. Remember it is God's Word (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Therefore:

(1) Put aside your ideas always and without hesitation; (2) count on God's promises without doubting them; and (3) obey immediately and exactly what He says—asking no questions (Joshua 1:16).

Five important things go along with studying the Scriptures:

- 1. Reading (1 Timothy 4:13)
- 2. Searching (Acts 17:11)
- 3. Finding (Psalm 119:162)
- 4. Meditating (Jeremiah 15:16)
- 5. Practicing (James 1:22-25)