

WHAT GOD SAYS IS TRUE

We must be clear concerning the promises God gives us in the Bible, and what it takes for us to access these promises.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The Gospel of John begins with “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God” (1:14). In fact, it was through His Word that God created everything. That’s why in Genesis 1 God *said*, “Let there be light, and there was light” (v. 3).
- ❖ Paul, understanding who Jesus is, wrote in Colossians 1:15 and Hebrews 1:3 that Jesus is the express image of the invisible God. Again in 1 Timothy 3:16 he wrote: “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”
- ❖ Undoubtedly, then, Jesus is the Word of God.
- ❖ It follows, therefore, that John wrote, “We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father” (1:14). John had some personal experiences with Jesus that other people didn’t have (see 9:28-36). The glory that John saw was both by faith and direct sight. Without a doubt, anything he needed to know about the divine Creator was made visible in the life and teaching of Jesus.
- ❖ In Matthew 4:1-11, the devil tried to define spiritual battle lines. He tried to put Jesus on the defensive and to get Him to demonstrate His power as proof to the devil of who He was. But Jesus remained within the strong tower of His Word. He reached back into Deuteronomy and said, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (8:3).
- ❖ Just like Jesus did as a man, it’s important for us to settle in our minds who the Word is. We must be convinced of where life’s answers are found. If we seek answers apart from the foundation of God’s Word—compelling as the spiritual underpinnings might seem—we’re building houses on sand that are destined for destruction.
- ❖ Jesus prayed that His disciples would be protected from the evil one (Jn. 17:15). Just as the devil tried to define spiritual battle lines with Jesus, he’ll try to do the same with His followers. But God will protect us from the evil one, as it is His divine will that we should remain on this earth and prosper for His glory.
- ❖ Yet this is not our final destination, and we are not to think that the goal is to build our lives as though this is it.
- ❖ Jesus said, “They are not of the world, even as I am not of it” (Jn. 17:16). Just as Abraham looked for a city whose builder and maker is God (Heb. 11:10), so we press on towards the mark of the higher calling in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).
- ❖ God wants to sanctify us (Jn. 17:17), or to make us saints. Saints are citizens of the kingdom of heaven, a meta-physical kingdom that dwells in the hearts of people.

KEY SCRIPTURES (NIV): John 1:14, 8:32, 17:17

- ❖ Throughout history, kingdoms have been built based on many worldviews and philosophies. But God’s kingdom is built upon the reliable foundation of truth. But where do we access this truth? In the Word of God.
- ❖ The Word lets us know Jesus and the truth of His promises, so we need to know what the Word says. For it is the principles of the Word that are the blueprints for life.
- ❖ Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples” (Jn. 8:31). Why did He say you are *really* My disciples? There’s a class of people throughout scripture who knew what scripture said. Yet to be able to “hold to” what is being taught, we not only have to understand what the Word *means*, but recognize that the end goal of education isn’t knowledge: the end goal is application.
- ❖ Yes, we understand that by faith we have been saved, and that a crown awaits us in glory. But what about today, now? Can we truly say that the Word applies fully—in our head, our heart?
- ❖ We say we’re kings/queens because the bible says so, but we live like slaves because we haven’t properly understood what the bible means. We are masters at missing the meaning of scriptures and then wondering why God hasn’t come through for us.
- ❖ But when we understand what the Word means, it unlocks the access to promises that will make us mature disciples of Christ. When we understand what His Word *means* and access His promises, the truth sets us free.
- ❖ So, let’s be slaves to what the Word of God says. But let’s also equally be slaves to God in hearing what He means. And if we’re prepared to be slaves to God in these two areas, our church will thrive and prosper in the calling He has prepared for us.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What are some of the promises God has made to us in His Word? Provide scriptural references.
2. What are some of the promises God has made that you have personally seen happen in your life or in the life of those you have prayed for/with?
3. What promises of God are you holding fast to that you want to see accomplished in your life?

PRAYER TIME

“Standing on the promises I shall not fall,
 List’ning every moment to the Spirit’s call.
 Resting in my Savior as my All in all...”
 I will stand on the promises of God. Amen.

Start-up: Have you ever been in a situation where "say what you mean/mean what you say" was not the case? What happened? How was it resolved?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🔄 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↕ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
 WORD