



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

LEADER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORD OF GOD

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*As an elected official what is your attitude toward the Word of God? Some would conclude it is a mere book of human origin. Others would hold it as a composition of books canonized by the church. Still others disregard it a book just like any other fictional literature. **BUT WHAT DO YOU SAY?***

May I submit to you that the Bible, the Word of God, is God's written revelation to man, and thus the 66 books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit constitute the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God.¹

The Word of God is an objective, propositional revelation,² verbally inspired in every word,³ absolutely inerrant in the original documents, infallible, and God-breathed. The literal, grammatical-historical interpretation of Scripture will produce its one true interpretation, yielding various applications.⁴

The Word of God—The Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice.⁵

1 Thessalonians 2:13-14 "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews,"

This passage gives us 3 characteristics that should evoke praise in the lives of believers. It should characterize the life of elected officials also. How do you—

- I. PERCEIVE THE WORD OF GOD?**
- II. PRAISE THE WORK OF OTHERS?**
- III. PERSEVERE WHEN WRONGED?**

Paul, Silas, and Timothy came to Thessalonica and ministered a short while, seeing God's redemptive hand at work in the lives of His people. Although influenced by ungodly paganism, the gospel accomplished its purposes in the lives of the chosen. The gospel

is the power of God and it will accomplish its divine intent. Salvation is God's grace gift given fully and freely to those who will receive it by faith.

Given the godless influence of the society, Paul feared the faith of the Thessalonians might have waned and that they would be influenced and overtaken by the society in which they lived. So Paul sent Timothy back to ascertain their spiritual condition after they had left.

1 Thessalonians 3:5 "For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain."

Paul's concern soon turned to joy in light of Timothy's favorable report. Therefore, Paul quickly expressed his gratitude for the Thessalonians. Paul always maintained a heart of gratitude for the privilege of ministry, and he unceasingly acknowledged God as the One who empowered the truth through him.

I. PERCEIVE THE WORD OF GOD?

So the message which the apostles preached came from God. It was God's word. It wasn't the word of Paul, nor from a committee, a consensus, and most definitely not from a bi-partisan compromise. Preachers, disciples of Jesus Christ and fellow Christians must understand that they have an obligation to preach God's message. Would it not be a delight if the entirety of God's message was heralded like Acts 13:44?

Acts 13:44 "The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the Word of God."

In Acts 17, when Paul came into the synagogue on those three Sabbaths and then elsewhere in the city preaching the gospel, there was a favorable reception. They listened to him, heard what he had to say, responded in faith, and God brought about salvation. It was the Word of God's message that wrought transformation. Paul spoke God's Word and the Lord accomplished His redemptive work. God is the source.

2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;"

BIBLE STUDIES

**MONDAYS @ 12 NOON,
WEDNESDAYS @ 8:30 A.M., ROOM 317 BLATT BUILDING**

South Carolina

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*SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED AND INERRANT IN ITS WORDS. TO DENY THAT ALL OF THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED OBVIOUSLY IS TO DENY THAT ALL OF THE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE ARE INSPIRED. JUST AS OBVIOUSLY, SUCH DENIAL PLACES MAN AS JUDGE OVER GOD'S WORD, ACKNOWLEDGING AS AUTHENTIC AND BINDING ONLY THOSE PORTIONS WHICH CORRESPOND TO ONE'S PERSONAL PREDISPOSITIONS. WHETHER THE HUMAN JUDGMENT ABOUT INSPIRATION IS MADE BY A CHURCH COUNCIL, CHURCH TRADITION, OR INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCE, IT IS BASED ON SUBJECTIVE, SIN-TAINTED, AND IMPERFECT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING. WHEN MEN DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES WHAT TO RECOGNIZE AS TRUE AND WORTHWHILE, AS MEANINGFUL AND RELEVANT, THEY VITIATE ALL AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE. EVEN WHEN THEY CONCUR WITH SCRIPTURE, THE AGREEMENT IS BASED ON THEIR OWN HUMAN WISDOM.*⁶

The Word of God is "GOD-BREATHED"! From the very heart and mind of The Author Himself—God. *The Bible is not a collection of the wisdom and insights of men, even of godly men. It is God's truth, His own Word in His own words. The psalmist declared, "Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven" (Ps. 119:89). God's Word is divinely revealed to men on earth and divinely authenticated in heaven. Peter declares unequivocally, "Know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Peter 1:20–21). Those God-given, humanly recorded words became God's written Word, inerrant and authoritative as originally given.*⁷

HOW THE WORD OF GOD WORKS ON BEHALF OF BELIEVERS:

IT SAVES THEM (JAMES 1:18; 1 PETER 1:23)

IT SANCTIFIES THEM (JOHN 17:17)

IT MATURES THEM (1 PETER 2:2)

IT FREES THEM (JOHN 8:31–32)

IT PERFECTS THEM (2 TIM. 3:16–17)

IT COUNSELS THEM (PS. 119:24)

IT BUILDS THEM UP (ACTS 20:32)

IT ENSURES THEIR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS (JOSH. 1:8–9; PS. 1:2–3)

IT GIVES THEM HOPE (PS. 119:147; ACTS 20:32)⁸

The Thessalonians were exposed to the Word. They received it. They accepted it in their hearts and applied the Word, thus Paul

habitually thanks God for what they were becoming because of the power of the Word.

God's message is antithetical to human reasoning. Human reasoning will never accomplish what the Word of God can. Human reasoning is flawed by depravity. Human reasoning adds tainted logic to the message of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 " For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE. Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

Paul was consumed with thankfulness for what the Word of God had accomplished. God's Word was producing abundant fruit. God's Word produces transformation that yields ongoing sanctification, and ultimately ends in glorification.

¹ (1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

² (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13)

³ (2 Timothy 3:16)

⁴ (John 7:17; 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-15; 1 John 2:20)

⁵ (Matthew 5:18; 24:35; John 10:35; 16:12-13; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

⁶MacArthur, J. (1996, c1995). *2 Timothy* (147). Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press.

⁷MacArthur, J. (1996, c1995). *2 Timothy* (142). Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press.

⁸MacArthur, J. (2002). *1 & 2 Thessalonians* (58). Chicago: Moody Press.