

The Bible, The Divine Standard

John 12:47-48

47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Our confession of faith says about the Bible, “that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us;⁴ . . . and [is] the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried”

Our relationship with the word of God is of prime importance. God’s word is His special revelation to us and He is expecting for us to listen and to respond correctly. When the word of God is propagated with sincerity nothing can stop it from what God intended, the conversion of the soul.

“The spread of Christianity during the first three centuries was rapid and extensive. The main causes that contributed to this were the translation of the Scriptures into the languages of the Roman world, the fidelity and zeal of the preachers of the Gospel, and the heroic deaths of the martyrs.” J.A. Wylie

Nothing has been so attacked in history. Early on in church history after the days of Constantine, J.A. Wylie tells us in his History of Protestantism, Vol 1, page 8, “The Bible had been withdrawn; in the pulpit fable had usurped the place of truth; holy lives, whose silent eloquence might have won upon the barbarians, were rarely exemplified; and thus, instead of the Church dissipating the superstitions that now encompassed her like a cloud, these superstitions all but quenched her own light.”

The Bible became a forgotten book and the teachings of men were substituted for the Word of God. Do you know what we call that period of history, The Dark Ages.

We are entering a new “Dark Ages.” An age based of the best ideas of man taking the place of the word of God. Just like that early church who had “outgrown” the Bible so people think we have today.

We as a person, as a people, as a church, as a community, as a nation can never get away with the neglect and denial of the word of God.

- I. It’s not me, it’s Him; it’s not my word, it’s His word.
 - A. Often times we find the world calling down the Christian for setting his views as the standard for others.
 - 1. But that is like me telling the policeman that pulls me over for doing 80 in a 55 that he is just trying to force his values on me.
 - 2. I could make all kind of excuses.
 - a. If I were on an Oklahoma interstate this is the legal speed.

- b. My car and the road conditions were such that I was not being unsafe.
 - 3. But you see the police officer is not forcing his moral values on me. He is enforcing the law.
 - 4. And when Christians call on people to listen to God's moral standards we are not forcing our moral standards on anyone, we are only warning people that God's standards are immutable and inescapable.
 - 5. God's standards are not subject to review.
 - 6. And ultimately we will all give an account for all that we have done.
 - a. John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.
 - b. Re 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
- B. It's kind of interesting that the world does not mind forcing its values on us when that fits their plan.
 - 1. When I was a child I watched silly cartoons that taught me that those who did evil would not win and would be punished.
 - 2. Today kids watch cartoons that teach them if they don't eat their vegetables they will suffer eternally.
 - 3. Today we make sure that we put all the trash in the proper receptacle but we fill the minds and hearts of our children with what God considers trash.

II. Jesus was a person of the Bible

A. He used it against Satan

- 1. Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"
 - a. De 8:3 "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.
- 2. Matthew 4:7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'"

- a. De 6:16 "You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah.
 - 3. Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"
 - a. De 6:13 "You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.
 - B. He used it to confront the traditions of the elders.
 - 1. Mt 15:3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"
 - C. He used it to correct the false teaching of the Sadducees.
 - 1. Mt 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.
 - D. He used it to chastize the Pharisees.
 - 1. He accused them of using the law to bolster their own positions but not actually keeping it.
 - 2. He commanded the people to do what they said but not to follow their examples.
 - E. He used it to teach His followers.
 - 1. Lu 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.
 - 2. Lu 24:25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"
 - F. He promised that not a word would go unfulfilled.
 - 1. Mt 5:18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.
 - G. He said it cannot be broken.
 - 1. John 10:35 ". . . (and the Scripture cannot be broken),
- III. People will be judged by the contents of this book.
 - A. A person must accept the word or be judged by the word.
 - 1. John 8:37 (NKJV) 37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.
 - 2. John 8:43 (NKJV) 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because

you are not able to listen to My word.

3. John 8:47 (NKJV) 47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."
4. John 14:24 (NKJV) 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

B. We will be judged according to the light we have received.

1. Luke 12:47-48 (NKJV) 47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

C. It will be the law that condemns those who are not in Jesus Christ.

1. Romans 2:12 (NKJV) 12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law
2. John 3:36 (NKJV) 36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
3. Romans 2:16 (NKJV) 16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Let us, like the Psalmist, hide God's word in our heart that we might not sin against Him.

Let us pray that as we read and study the word of God that He will write His word on our hearts.

Only then can we have peace and purpose.

Only then can we have the assurance we need.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

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1 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NKJV) 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

Luke 10:10-16 (NKJV) 10 But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.' 12 But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city. 13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades. 16 He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

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1 John 4:1 (NKJV) 1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Isaiah 8:20 (NKJV) 20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NKJV) 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

2 Corinthians 8:5 (NKJV) 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

Acts 17:11 (NKJV) 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these

things were so.

1 John 4:6 (NKJV) 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Jude 1:5 (NKJV) 5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV) 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Psalms 119:59-60 (NKJV) 59 I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies. 60 I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.

Philippians 1:9-11 (NKJV) 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.