

Subject: *Our Obligation to God's Word*

Scripture: *Psalm 119:57-72*

We return again to the glorious theme of God's Word, and this time we will consider our responsibility to His Word.

1. RESPECT GOD'S WORD

The writer of Psalm 119 had the utmost respect for God's Word. Respect it because God gave it. Respect it because God inspired it (2 Tim. 3:16). Respect it because of its authority, accuracy, ability, clarity, and sufficiency. Respect it because Christ respected it.

Jesus had a very high view of Scripture and so should we. Jesus never challenged the accuracy or authority of a single passage of Scripture. He never once felt the need to correct any statement in the OT. On the contrary, he confirmed the faithfulness of Scripture down to the smallest detail.

Matthew 5:17-18 ¹⁷ *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.* ¹⁸ *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

It is worth noting that in all of Christ's dealings with people, from his disciples to his enemies, not one person ever questioned the inspiration and authority of Scripture. Christ challenged the false teachers at every opportunity, but He never challenged or questioned the truthfulness of Scripture. He only challenged the people's ignorance and mishandling of it.

2. READ GOD'S WORD

It just stands to reason that God expects us to read the Bible because that what you do with a book. He could have revealed himself and his will to us in some other way, but He chose to reveal himself and his will in words.

Sometimes a person will say, "I don't like to read." Some books we may not want to read, but the Bible is a book we must read. We can't afford not to read it again and again. People will often say, "I believe that Bible from cover to cover." That sounds pretty good, until you ask them if they've read it from cover to cover. Often Christ challenged people about their lack of reading the Scriptures.

Matthew 12:1-4 ¹ *At that time Jesus went on the Sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungered, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.* ² *But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the Sabbath day.* ³ *But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungered, and they that were with him;* ⁴ *How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the showbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?*

Matthew 19:3-6 ³ *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?* ⁴ *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,* ⁵

And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they two shall be one flesh? ⁶ Wherefore they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

3. STUDY GOD'S WORD

***Matthew 12:5-7** ⁵ Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶ But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple. ⁷ But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.*

They had read the prophet Hosea, but did not understand what it meant and missed the point. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel Christ referred to the same scripture they had failed to learn.

***Matthew 9:11-13** ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? ¹² But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. ¹³ But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

***Romans 15:4** For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

The Bible was written for our learning (instruction), but to learn something you must study it.

***2 Timothy 2:15** Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

4. BELIEVE GOD'S WORD

***Romans 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

We can't believe unless God first speaks to us in his Word. Christ challenged people to be ready to hear God's Word carefully, so they would believe it.

***Matthew 11:15** He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Scripture warns us about hardening our heart and resisting the truth of God.

***Hebrews 3:8-13** ⁸ Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: ⁹ When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. ¹⁰ Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. ¹¹ So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) ¹² Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

There seems to be a lot of hardening and resisting toward the Word of God, when there ought to be a softening and believing toward it.

5. RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

1 Thessalonians 2:13 *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

The word “receive” means to “welcome.” It means to welcome fully into their hearts and minds. The church at Thessalonica did not lightly dismiss what Paul said as the words of a man, but they received his teaching as the word of God.

Some people don't receive God's Word because their mind is so full of the world's thoughts and their own thoughts. They have no room for the truth of God, and that's always so sad.

6. OBEY GOD'S WORD

Christ stressed this in John 14.

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

John 14:21 *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

John 14:23-24 ²³ *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. ²⁴ He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*

James 1:22-25 ²² *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

7. MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

Psalms 119:15-16 ¹⁵ *I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. ¹⁶ I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*

Psalms 119:97 *O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*

Psalms 119:148 *Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.*

8. TREASURE GOD'S WORD

Psalms 119:72 *The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.*

Psalms 119:127 *Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.*

Psalms 119:162 *I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.*

As I prepared for this message I found a note that I had written from one of Josh's first sermons in 2020, on Psalm 119:105, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” The note said: “If people really lived this way, our world would be different, our churches and our families would be different.”