

1 **A CHURCH OF THE WORD**

1 Thessalonians 2:13

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¹³ *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

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4 **May 15, 1853**

5 **Articles of Faith**

- Article #2 of their Articles of Faith: *We believe that the old and new testaments are of divine authority and is the only rule of faith and practice.*
- Many changes in the last 163 years.
- One thing hasn't changed: We still believe that the Bible *is the only rule of faith and practice.*

6 **They received the Word (2:13)**

because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

7 **They accepted its authority.**

- They received it as the Word of God.
- They accepted (*welcomed*) it into their hearts as the word of God.
- The focus here is crucial. They heard the message from a man, the Apostle Paul, but they recognized that it came from God.

8 **A crucial debate**

- If the Bible is only the word of man, then it is changeable, fickle and unreliable.
- But if the Bible is the word of God, then it is utterly and completely authoritative.
- If God has spoken in the Bible, then what he says has final claim on my life.

9 **Summary**

- Because of what it is – the Word of God – We don't correct it – We don't alter it – We don't inject our ideas into the teaching of the Bible.
- If the Bible comes from man, we are entitled to sit in judgment on it.
- If the Bible comes from God, we must bow in total submission to it.

10 **Not a party platform**

- We're in the midst of a presidential campaign.
- The Bible is not like the Republican or the Democratic platform that came about through debate and consensus.
- If the Bible is the word of God, it is utterly exclusive in its claims. It does not beg for our approval.

11 **Doctoral dissertation**

- In order to get his degree, the candidate must write, defend and have approved his dissertation.
- It is a long struggle.
- A lot of red ink on the paper.
- It's just a dissertation, and therefore can and will be corrected in many places. His professors have that authority.

12 **The Bible stands as read!!**

- Story of church going through major controversy.
- Pastor read a scripture to calm the situation.
- Elderly gentleman made a motion. . . .

13 **Bro. Moderator, I move that the Bible stand approved as read.**

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- So it must be for you and me.
- The Bible stands approved as read, without correction, without change, without deletion, without addition.
- It is the eternal, inerrant, infallible and inspired Word of God.

14 **Liberal theology – Satan's Trojan horse**

- Satan, through liberal theology, has brought in his own Trojan Horse to deceive, dilute and defeat the Christian church from within.
- Liberals, from their point of view, are honoring the Bible, the church and Jesus Christ. So liberalism does not come from without the church, but from within.

15 **Liberal goals**

What the liberals wanted to do was to modify or change Biblical theology and teaching so that it was more palatable and acceptable to modern man.

16 **Liberal philosophy**

- The liberals proposed a version of Christianity that downplayed the miraculous and rejected the inerrancy of scripture.
- They also accepted evolution as an explanation of human origins. They hoped this new kind of Christianity would make the Christian faith more acceptable so that so that it could take the lead in a modern world.

17 **The Word working in the believer**

- v. 13b: . . . *but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.*

18 **The Word working in salvation**

- Romans 10:17: *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
- 1 Peter 1:23: *Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.*

19 **The Word working in the believer**

- 1 Corinthians 1:18: *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but*

to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- Romans 1:16: *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. . .*
- ILLUSTRATION: A water pump in the desert.

20 **Sanctified and transformed**

- John 17:17: Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
- Jeremiah 23:29: Is not My word like a fire? says the LORD, And like a hammer that breaks the rick in pieces?
- Watching Grandpa work at the forge
- C. H. Spurgeon's sermon: *God's Fire and Hammer – 1886*