



# ECCLESIOLOGY

# The Word and The Church



QUESTION:

What comes to mind when I say “the Word” ?



# Introduction

- **JESUS**
  - **JOHN 1:1**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- The **WRITTEN** Word
- God's **SPOKEN** Word
  - “Thus saith the Lord.”
- God's **PERSONAL** Word
  - “Adam, where are you?”



# The written Word, specifically as the Supreme Authority in the Christian's Life



# Authority

## Definition

- The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience

What are some examples of **Earthly Authority**?



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What are some examples of **Earthly Authority**?

1. Government
2. Parents
3. Employers
4. Pastors
5. IRS



# Authority

## Affirmative Action

- Demands man's obedience without the power to deal with the root issue...**man's wicked heart!**





# The Power of God's WORD

## PHILIPPIANS 2:13

For it is God who worketh in you both *to will and to do* for his good pleasure.

**Let's ask:** how does God “worketh?”



Scripture's authority not only dictates my course in life...

...it enables and empowers the transformation necessary for the execution required in obedience.



## EZEKIEL 11:19-20

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh: that they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.



## 1. ACTIONS

### JAMES 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.



## 2. THOUGHTS

### ROMANS 12:2

And be not conformed to the this world; be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.



## 3. PERSPECTIVE

### 1 PETER 2:11

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims...

- Which **Kingdom** has your attention?
- Are you and I too **comfortable**?
- “**Germany** Analogy”



## 4. VALUES

### MATTHEWS 13:44-46

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then, in his joy, he went and sold all that he had and bought the field.

CONTRAST: **Rich Young Ruler**



# From Where Does this Fear Originate? ECCLESIOLOGY

## The Word

### ROMANS 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation

### ROMANS 10:14

...how shall they hear without a preacher?

### ROMANS 2:4

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?





# General Scriptures

## DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall **teach** them diligently to your children, and shall **talk** of them when you sit in your house, and **when you walk** by the way, and **when you lie down**, and **when you rise**. You shall bind them as a **sign on your hand**, and they **shall be as frontlets between your eyes**. You shall **write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates**.

**CONSISTENCY and IMPORTANCE**



# General Scriptures

## 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Do you best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**

- In other words, not flippantly – authority is dangerous when used unwisely

## HEBREWS 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged word, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and, **and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**



# General Scriptures

## HEBREWS 5:12-14

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is but a child. But solid food is for the mature, **for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.**

- The Word, exercised in life, creates a discerner



# General Scriptures

## 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**



Does the Bible  
have an  
Answer  
to your every  
Question?



# Conclusion

Thinking about the Bible may lead us astray in two ways:

1. Failing to recognize that there are a myriad of things in today's world that simply were not present when Scripture was recorded.
2. Quickly rushing into legalism.

There is a **BETTER WAY...**



# Conclusion

How does God “equip us for every good work?”

*John Piper* – Two Answers

- **ROMANS 14:23**

Whatever does not proceed from faith is **sin**

- **ROMANS 7:4**

My brothers, you also have **died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another**, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we bear fruit for God.



## Wrapping It All Up

God equips us for every good work, not with a binding checklist, but with a soft heart, guided by the Holy Spirit, that is foundationally rooted in the Word, His Son Jesus.

He is the vine, we are the branches, bearing his fruit.







**ECCLESIOLOGY**