

Believing For Greater Things: 2

God's Word First Place

John 7.46

“The guards answered, 'The words He says are greater than the words of any other person who has ever spoken!’” (NCV)

God and His Word are Inseparable

John 10.29-30

“My Father.. He is greater than all”. But then in the next verse (John 10.30) Jesus made another statement which angered and offended His hearers so that they took up stones to kill Him – He said “The Father and I are one”

God is greater than all but in this verse Jesus says that He is as great as the Father – He is one with the Father – he is equal with God – He is God

No man ever spoke like Jesus:

- His words were with authority and power – Luke 4.32, 36
- His listeners marvelled at His words – Matthew 22.22
- His disciples were astonished at His words – Mark 10.24
- They were amazed at His words – Luke 4.36
- His words were gracious words – Luke 4.22
- His words had the power to heal the sick – Matthew 8.8,16
- His word makes us clean – John 15.3; Ephesians 5.26
- He only spoke what heard the Father say – John 8.26,28; John 12.49-50

Since therefore, Jesus is equal to God, and He only spoke the things He heard of His Father – His Word is God's Word and God's Word is His Word – Jesus is the Word of God.

God and His Word are inseparable

John 1.1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”

God's Word Is His Will & His Will Is His Word

Because God and His Word cannot be separated, we find all that God is, is contained in His Word.

- His Word reveals the nature and character of God – everything we need to know about God, His nature, His character has already been spoken and given to us. We get to know God through His Word
- His Word reveals to us His will – the Bible is divided into two parts, the Old & New Testaments. A testament is a legal declaration of someone's will, purpose and intent; a covenant. God's Word is His revealed will for us.

- How can I know God's will? A question often asked – get to know God's word. For His Word is His will & His will is His Word.

God Has Magnified His Word Above His Holy Name

Psalm 138.2

“I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your Word above all Your name”

- In the last lesson we looked at how God revealed Himself through His names – it was through His covenant names that he made known His will to the patriarchs – He would be their Redeemer, Deliverer, Healer etc.
- Names are important – in Bible times they revealed something about the person. A man's name inherently communicates the integrity of that man.
- We should seek to have a good name - Proverbs 22.1; Ecclesiastes 7.1
- God reveals Himself to us through His Word – Even though His name is high and holy, God has magnified His Word above His own name.
- God's Word is the benchmark by which we test those who come in 'His name' (see Matthew 24.5, 1 John 4.1). All prophecies and other 'words' from God must be tested against the Written Word. Peter called the written word a more sure word of prophecy (2 Peter 1.16-21)

God's Word Has First Place

Proverbs 4.20-23

We must give the Word our full attention. It must be kept before our eyes and in our hearts. The people of God were told to keep hearing it, reading it, speaking it, wherever they went and whatever they did (Deuteronomy 6.6-9, 11.18-20).

- God's Word is true and should be desired more than gold, more than life itself (Psalm 19.7-9)
- Job treasured God's Word more than his natural food (Job 23.12)
- God's Word has been given to us so that we can live by them (Matthew 4.4)
- God's Word is solid foundation on which we can base our whole life (Matthew 7.24-25). We build by being obedient to it, being a doer of the word (James 1.22)
- We do not build our lives on the teachings of a church, the words of some preacher, the writings of some author, or the words of the latest song – unless those areas are based on the Word.
- Disregard anything that does not line up or agree with God's Word – that includes the reports we receive through the world - media, doctors, professionals or even well-intentioned individuals. Believe God's report – His Word! (Numbers 13.30-33, Numbers 14.1-11; Isaiah 53.1; Psalm 1.1-2)

Settle in your own heart that God's Word is greater – it must be our first resource rather than our last resort.