

Respect God's Word

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I. Introduction.

A. There is no way in the world that someone can prove to you that the Bible is the Word of God just as there is no way in the world that someone can prove to you that it is not.

B. Everyone has to make the decision whether truth is absolute and whether divine revelation is the source of moral authority.

II. Three questions that can be answered internally with regard to the Bible.

A. What is the Word of God?

1. The sword of the Spirit.
2. A light.
3. Food. (Jeremiah 15)
4. Truth.

B. What is the Word of God's role?

1. Cleansing.
2. Guidance.
3. Exhortation.
4. Instruction.
5. Conviction.
6. Revelation of thoughts and the heart.
7. Direction.
8. Counsel.
9. Salvation
10. Joy and peace.

C. What is my responsibility toward the Word of God?

1. Study.
2. Read.
3. Obey.

4. Practice it.
5. Preach it. (Mark 2)
6. Teach it.

III. The promises of God.

A. The promises of God help us to obtain an intimate, experiential knowledge of God. (2 Peter 1, Romans 7:4)

B. General promises obtained through prayer.

1. Security. (1 John 5:11-12)
2. Escape from temptation. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
3. He will not leave us. (Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 28:20)
4. Forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)

C. Specific promises.

1. Paul was given a specific promise regarding the Gentiles. (Acts 13:47, Isaiah 42)
2. Guidelines.
 - a. The test of prayer.
 - b. The test of godly counsel.
 - c. The test of Scripture.
 - d. Leaving the fulfillment open ended.

D. Areas of application.

1. Personal. (1 John 2:15-16, Galatians 5:22-23)
2. Family. (Romans 15:13)
3. Ministry. (Deuteronomy 33:25, Philippians 2:22)

Application questions:

1. How did God use an out of context verse to guide Paul in Acts 13:47? Explain.

2. Why is it important to know what expectations we can bring to the Word of God? Explain.

3. What guideline do you think is most important for obtaining specific promises? Explain.
