

The Mysterious Word

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I Thessalonians 2:13-16.
- B. The Bible is the most precious object the world has today.

II. The Word of God is a remarkable instrument.

- A. The Word comes to believers through ordinary human beings.
- B. God speaks in still-small voices, dreams and visions, and “face to face.”
- C. God has spoken primarily through His Son.
- D. If the Word can come through normal men, there can be many phony claims to speak on His behalf.
 - 1. God’s actions in the world always agree with His Word. All claims to speak on God’s behalf must be measured against the Bible.
 - 2. The test of the real Word of God is that it always changes a person. (Hebrews 4:12)
- E. The Word is valuable for practical guidelines on how to live.

III. There is violent opposition to the Word of God.

- A. God is not impressed by human achievement—all people must come to God by grace alone.
- B. The gospel exposes human pride.
- C. The gospel forgives blatant sinners whom others think deserve nothing more than hell and death.

IV. God takes severe measures to awaken people as to their situation.

Application questions:

1. How can one test claims made with regard to the Word of God?

2. How would you respond to someone who you sense has made a false claim? Explain.

3. Should believers expect opposition? What is the appropriate response when opposition arises? Explain.
