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## The Word of God

We just finished a rather lengthy series having to do with the reality of salvation. I won't go back and review the things discussed in that series, but I make reference to it simply to make a point. You think you know something. You think you know the reality or experience or substance of something spiritual and yet you never do.

I would guess that nearly all Christians would tell you that they had a good handle on the reality of salvation. Most would probably insist that salvation was the basics. Well, if there is one thing that I hope that we all came to see in the salvation series that we just completed it is that salvation is as immense and unsearchable as Jesus Christ is immense and unsearchable. Why? Because salvation is simply our soul's experience of knowing Jesus Christ. Because all spiritual reality that we come to know are only facets of the soul's experience and knowing of Him as our life.

Jesus says in John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that you know the Father and Jesus who He has sent"

He doesn't say that this is *part* of eternal life. This is the very reality and experience of eternal life – knowing Him. Knowing Him how? Knowing Him as your life, and therefore as your death, burial, resurrection. Knowing Him.

Everything spiritual, eternal, heavenly, incorruptible, that a Christian will ever know or experience is nothing other than an encounter of the human soul with knowing the living Jesus Christ. So what is salvation? It is Christ living in you. What does that mean? Well...how much time do you have? How much hunger do you have? How much do you really want to know? If you desire it, there is much to know. If you have ears to hear, there is much to hear.

Salvation means everything that Christ is. Like what? It means Christ's life and not yours. It means the reality of dwelling in Him and not the old creation. It means Christ's relationship to the Father in union. Etc, etc. There is much to be known, and walked in, and experienced. How interested are you? How much are you willing to come the way of knowing Him?

I continue to find that so many are only as interested in God as they are able to "get Him", so they think, to effect their own world or protect their own interests. We love God to the degree that we perceive Him bettering or blessing our lives.

And for some, Christianity is merely something you believe in but don't give much thought to or concern yourself with until things in your world begin to fall apart. We turn to Him when things seem out of control. Maybe you lose a job. Maybe you lose a some money. Then we turn our attention to the Lord, and generally we're upset with Him for "allowing" such things to happen...as though God was the author of your misfortune and owes you something better. Sometimes then we dust the Bible

off the shelf, start going back to church, and try to change our behavior in an attempt to motivate God to help our situation. As though God is that stupid. But my point is that so many people don't really desire to know the Truth.

So often, what we know of salvation, what we know of eternal life, is just what we've allowed the Lord to show us. What we know of the Truth is proportional to what we've desired to know, and what we've let Him show us.

But I was saying that salvation is everything that Christ is. How much do you want to know? How far will you let Him show you. He's not going to show you *things*. He's going to show you all spiritual things in and as Christ. I hope I'm being clear.

Christ is the sum and reality of all spiritual things. And the moment you think you know something, its then you can know for certain that you don't know as you ought. As though your knowing could contain Him! As though your thoughts could exhaust Him!

**1Co 8:2** *And if any man thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.*

"Wow, I thought I understood salvation. Now I see that I only understood that I have salvation in Christ, but have no idea what that is. I wonder what else I don't know." FREEZE!! Hold that thought for the rest of your life, and the Spirit can teach you. Well, what else what we might not understand? What about the "gospel"? What's that? What about the Word of God?

I wanted to start another series, but wasn't quite ready to do so this morning. So I thought I'd just share a few thoughts about knowing the Word, or knowing the gospel. Really, it's the same thing – the Word that He is, and the gospel that He is. Its been stirring in my heart this week.

I doubt I'll take this beyond one week, but I had a few things that the Lord has begun to make clear to my heart with regards to His Word.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". We all know that passage. And I suppose we all know that the word "Word" there is with reference to Christ. I don't think there is any body here that thinks that passage speaks of God the Father having a Bible on his nightstand in the beginning. Its not words. Its not a Bible. It's the Word that Christ is.

But in what sense is Christ the Word? I'm just going to say it now, and we'll build on it. But you could say that my words (in a very type and shadow sort of way) are the very expression and appearing of me to you. How do you know my thoughts? My words convey them. How do you know my emotions? My words show them. How do you know my mind? Again, my words. They are the expression the experience the materializing of my thought, my person, my wisdom, my heart, my nature. They are not things that describe me. They **are** me... being expressed. They are not adjectives about Jason. They are Jason coming forth into your perception. They are the knowing of Jason.

The true Word of God, the gospel of God, is not words and teachings. The gospel is, in fact, the Word of God Himself in you by new birth. You could say that I'm up here trying to teach you the gospel, but really what I'm up here doing is proclaiming

to you the Word that He is. I'm up here testifying to the Word that is in you. I'm teaching in hopes that your heart will turn and let Him show you the gospel.

The gospel is God's own Word revealed in your heart. The gospel is God's own person, wisdom, heart, nature, understanding, character...God's Son, being revealed in you. And so you see that Word is not a language. It is not words and sentences. This Word is not a teaching. He's not that kind of Word. Words and sentences can only describe the Word that He is.

The words of the Bible, and hopefully the words of my mouth, describe the Word that He is. They communicate something of the truth, the wisdom, and the understanding that He is. But they are not really the Word. He is the Word. They are not the gospel, they are the proclamation of the gospel.

The true gospel isn't telling you with words what's good, bad, right, wrong, and then leaving you standing there to make the decision whether to do it. No that's just words. And you'll never do it. You see, this is the great stumbling block of religion. Religion says that if you read words, study words, make application, and put a leather cover on your words and then read it for X amount every day, then you'll do it. And right there is exactly where we don't understand the difference between words and Word.

Words and Word. **Words can only ever instruct you. But they will never change you.** They are imposed on a soul from without. They go in the ears and we attempt to apply them to situations. But words only tell you what He's like, and what you're supposed to be like. They only describe something that you are not. And in the learning of His words – through the Bible, preaching, visions and dreams or the Law of Moses – you will never change. Not one bit. You might agree. You might try to adapt and adjust behavior. But you will never change.

But the Word Himself is not like this. He transforms a soul from within. The one is letters on a page describing righteousness. The other is Righteousness itself being written on the heart. The one is a verse about perfect love casting out fear. The other is that love casting out fear. The one is a description of the fruit of the Spirit. The other is that fruit growing out of the soil of your soul.

Words can only instruct you. **The** Word will change you. Do you see that this is the difference from the Old Covenant and the New. We've come, as Paul says, from letter to Spirit. From words describing Christ to the Spirit of Christ. We've come from words that describe Him written on stone, to the Word that is Him written on the human heart by the finger of God. (2 Corinthians 3)

You see, words say "thou shalt not lie". But the Word says "I **will** not lie". Words say "thou shalt not covet". Word says "I **cannot** covet". Words say "you must love". The Word says "I am love". On the one hand you have words that describe Christ being imposed upon you and there you are doing your best to obey. On the other hand you have the very Spirit of Christ working in you the reality of what all words have described. On the one hand it is instructions describing good and evil. On the other it is His Word working in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

James says "Received with humility the implanted Word of God" That's not a surgical procedure involving a scalpel and a King James Bible. That is the very

thought and heart and mind of God being wrought in your soul through the unveiling of that Word. **That is now allowing Him to implant in you what He has only ever described to you.** The Word of God.

You see, Christian's usually don't understand this about the Law. The Law of Moses was only ever the description of Christ. In every way the Law described something that He is. Whether it is the moral facets of that law – the "thou shalt" and the "thou shalt not" The civil facets of the law – "do not intermarry with another seed." Or the ceremonial facets of the law – "sacrifice this lamb on this altar".

In each case the law was written words, commanding them to do things that caused Israel to be a natural testimony in the earth of Him who was to come. Were they ever able to keep the Law? Did the law make them righteous? What happens when you take written words that describe Jesus and demand them of people who are other than Jesus by nature? Paul tells you what happens.

- The Law brings the increase of transgression. *"The Law came in so that the transgression would increase".* Romans 5:20
- *"I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET". 8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead".* Romans 7:7
- *"For while we were in the flesh, **the sinful passions, which were {aroused} by the Law**, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death".* Romans 7:5
- *"Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; **for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin**".* Romans 3:20
- *The Law is "a ministry of death" and "a ministry of condemnation".* 2 Corinthians 3:7,9

Do you see? The written words functioned in two ways. First and foremost to create a testimony in the earth of Christ. To describe Him in words. And second to condemn to death all that was not Him.

The words describe the Word. They did then, and they do now. The Law describes the Spirit. But when the Spirit comes, you are free from the law. Why? Because righteousness ceases to exist? **No, because you have come from words describing it to living Word of righteousness implanted.**

And that is why, in so many instances the New Testament describes the reality that we have come from Law to Spirit. We have come, as Romans 8 says, to the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus.

**Rom 8:2** But the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

**James 1:25** But looking into the perfect Law of Liberty and abiding therein, this one becomes not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work

**Jam 2:12** So speak and so do as being about to be judged through a Law of freedom.

Freedom from what? Freedom from the man that could never keep the words.  
Freedom unto what? Freedom unto the Spirit who is the living Word.

We Christians, must understand that we've come from words to the Word. I see people all the time, checking in the Bible to see if such and such is a sin. "Well, I haven't read anything that says this is wrong!" "Brother, do you want to come out and go with us to a party Saturday night?" "Well, let me look in the Bible and see if its wrong". That is totally missing the reality of the Word.

The Word isn't something you run your ideas by to see if they line up with His. The Word is the very thought and heart and person of Christ working in and out of you. The Word is God's communication of Himself to you through the revealing of Christ your life.

I was recently doing some teaching in a group of people, most of whom were leaders of some kind. I was teaching on the reality of knowing Christ as the very life of the soul. I was teaching roughly along the lines of what I'm teaching today. Speaking to them on how there is all the difference in the world between trying to be like Him, trying to do what he says, and becoming the very expression of His life, His Word, working in you. I had taught for several hours when afterward a particular leader came up to me and said "Jason, so basically all that you're saying is that I need to be more intentional about running my ideas past the Lord, right?"

I'll never forget that. I stood there not knowing what to say for an awkward amount of time, and finally said..."well, there's more to it than that". That is a perfect example of our problem.

The Word of God is not something you run your ideas by. The Word of God isn't a command imposed upon you. Old Covenant **words** functioned as such in order to create a natural testimony in the earth of Him who was to come. But the Word of God is a Person, a nature, the very thought, and heart, and reality of God living in you. Working in you. Its not things you hear from God and try to apply to your life. Please, we must get away from that. It is the very heart of God, thought of God, mind of God, working in you both to will and to work.

It doesn't just correct your decisions or re-direct your plans. It changes the very operations of your soul. It doesn't turn you to a wiser direction, it is His very wisdom constraining you. It doesn't teach you a higher standard of love, it is the love of Christ compelling you. It doesn't clue you into His Will, it is the will of God working in you. Can you hear the difference?

I say this because I see the church, and I've seen it in myself for years, looking somewhere other than this very implanted Word to know His will. It's grievous. People looking in a book to understand what God wants. You'll never find it there. Its not on pages. It's a person who is your life. People praying endlessly for God to "speak something to them". People chasing around so-called prophetic voices in the body of Christ. Why? To know what God wants for me! To know what God wants from me! No. **Stop that.** His will isn't known in that way. His will isn't words that you will hear. His will won't come in English sentences that will command you to do

things. His will isn't instructions and tasks. His will is the revealing of His Word in you. His will isn't a thing to do, it is a life to live. The Person of Eternal Life.

And I'm not saying that the Lord won't communicate in words about natural or directional things, or even describe in words that which must be revealed as Word. "Paul, go to Macedonia." "Phillip, run up to that Ethiopian." That's fine. But that's not where God's will is really known or accomplished. God's will is known and accomplished when His Word becomes the very thought, heart, mind, understanding, and nature of your soul. You can't get that through a prophet or a book.

I've recently seen people I care about chasing after God's will for their life in these ways. You'll never find it there. I don't care if you read every book and receive hundreds of prophetic words. The word of God is not something that He tells your mind, it's His mind working in you. It's not something you're going to figure out through a vision. It is the vision of God becoming all that you see. And the will of God isn't even something that you can do. It is something He has done, and now seeks to reveal in you so that you can express it in the earth.

His will is not something that He is trying to get you to do. I'm going to say that again. His will is not something that He is trying to get you to do. His will is not something that you *can* do. His will is what He has done in Christ. It is spirit and truth. It is eternal. It is finished. It is kept, that is safe, reserved, undefiled in a realm that cannot be messed with. A realm, in fact, in which you live and move and have your being as a Christian whether you realize it or not. And so His comes directly out from you knowing His thought, His mind, His understanding, His Wisdom, His heart, His WORD. His will is to plant His Word and grow His Word in your soul. That is what God wants from you.

Have you ever noticed that in so many of Jesus' parables he is talking about this very Word. Sometimes He calls it the "Word of the kingdom". Other times the gospel of the kingdom. It's not just a good teaching about the kingdom. It's the kingdom of that Word. It's not words. It is the Person described by all His teachings and all His Words. Jesus wasn't sowing theology into a field. He was sowing the Word. Jesus wasn't sowing good doctrine into four types of ground. He was sowing the living Word.

So we have come from words to the Word. It is no longer carnal attempts to keep His word in the flesh. You see, that is Old Covenant. That is the shadow. That was the preview of coming attractions. No, now it is the manifestation of that Word in spirit and truth. Now it is not letter required of you, but Spirit revealed in you. The gospel is not words describing what He did, it is the Word Himself doing it in you.

We recently spoke of the difference between the old and new covenant. Let me bring this very thing into that contrast. Formerly, in the days of the old covenant, God spoke in a variety of different ways. He always spoke concerning the same thing – that is the cross, the putting away of the first and the establishing of the second. Or you could say "the sufferings of the Christ and the glories to follow". He always spoke of the same thing, but He spoke in different ways.

Sometimes He used nature – parting seas, water coming from rocks, bread falling from heaven. Sometimes He used clothing. Put on this linen garment, and this hat, and this breast plate. Sometimes He used events – this victory, that captivity. Sometimes he used people – a king here and a priest there. Sometimes He just

used human words – the major and minor prophets. But in each case, in former days, he spoke in diverse ways concerning a coming Son. And in every thing that he said, in whatever way that He said it, He was speaking concerning His coming Son.

Now, however, at the end of these days, He simply speaks to us in that Son. Now, His speaking is the revealing of the Word that all words every spoke of. Now He doesn't have to say words – which always left so much unsaid. Now He can simply show you the Word. Can you see that? Now that the Word lives in your soul, why would he veil the Word in words. Why wouldn't He just show you the Word? Why wouldn't He just speak to you by showing you His Son?

Let me read you Hebrews 1:1 from a literal translation "God, who at many times and in various ways of old, spoke to the Fathers in the prophets, has at the last of these days, spoken to us in Son".

Is that not exactly what we've been saying? Formerly He says something about righteousness, now He reveals that righteousness in you. Formerly He says something about truth, now truth is the knowing of Him. Formerly He talks about eternal life, now Jesus says "This is eternal life, that you might know Me – the Word of God"

In the New Covenant, the Word of God is not something you just hear and attempt to make appropriate application. The Word of God is not a description of His will, it is his very will now in you. The Word of God is not a description of His righteousness, it is His righteousness working in you. The Word of God is not a book of life, it is Life Himself. You get the picture.

Who is the Word of God? He is the one IN WHOM God is now speaking. The Word is the communication of all that God thinks and knows and wills and sees. Remember, what was my word? My word is the communication of all that I think and know and will and see. The Word of God, Christ in you, is the one IN WHOM God is now speaking.

How is God's Word heard? Through us coming to share His thinking, His knowing, His willing, His seeing by showing us this Word. By revealing this Word in us.

And who gets to know that Word? All who will receive it with meekness and abide therein. All who will seek Him for the increase of what was planted. All who will let the Father speak to you in Son. The natural ear can hear words, but only those with ears to hear can perceive the Word.

Again, have you noticed how every time that Jesus opens His mouth in the gospels he begins or ends by saying "the ones having an ear to hear, let him hear". Or in the book of Revelation "Let the one who has an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches"