

**Title:** It Is Written

**Text:** Matthew 4:11; Various

The response of Jesus to temptation was to affirm the written word of God. He rebuked the devil in these areas. We face them too. Do you call upon God when tempted to disobey? Do you test God's goodness? Do you worship temporal things more than eternal things? Did you know your behavior and lifestyle reflect how you view God?

**POINT 1 - THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE.** Defined *"All words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word in Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God."*<sup>1</sup> Thus says the Lord is the phrase that is common to OT prophets. In ancient times when a king spoke "thus says the king" it could not be challenged, it had to be obeyed. Thus, when OT prophets spoke their words and prophecies were speaking on behalf of the king and were 100% accurate. To disobey these words was disobeying God.

- God cannot lie or speak falsely and His words can always be trusted. Hebrews 6:18A *"so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie..."*
- All words of Scripture are true and completely without error. If you believe that God's word is authoritative then you must hold to His words as without error.
- God's word is the ultimate standard of truth. John 17:17 *"Sanctify them in truth, your word is truth"*. The adjective in the Greek isn't used here which would be "your word is true" but the noun "truth" to say that God's word is not simply true, but it is truth itself.
- God's word is the ultimate definition of what is true and what is not true.
- Written Scripture is our final authority. God wrote the ten commandments. Paul said God's word is *"breathed out"*. We do not need some extra biblical feeling or sign or formation of clouds to hear what God has to say. It's in the written form we have here before us.

People sometimes (intentionally or unintentionally) try to substitute some other final standard than the written word of Scripture. For example:

- What Jesus really said...
- What Paul really thought...

It's important to know the cultural, historical and grammatical context in Bible study and when digging through biblical issues to get some answers. But twisting Scripture to fit your preconceived ideas is dangerous.

- Is there anything in the Bible that you don't like to obey or want to change concerning your behavior?

---

<sup>1</sup> Systematic Theology; Wayne Grudem, pp. 73

- Do you believe things because Scripture says them or are you looking for some way to discredit it to fit your life?

**POINT 2 - THE INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE.** All words of Scripture are to be completely true and without error. Psalms 12:6 "The words of the Lord are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times." Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is tested (pure); He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him." A working definition of inerrancy is "Scripture in its original manuscripts does not affirm anything contrary to fact." A few thoughts if we deny inerrancy:

- A serious moral problem presents itself; may we imitate God and intentionally lie on small matters? Ephesians 5:1 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children." Point being, if we don't lie on the big things, but little things then we don't believe God's word is inerrant.
- We begin to wonder if anything God said is true.
- We make our own human minds a higher standard of truth than God's word itself.
- We say the Bible is wrong, not only in minor details but in major doctrines as well.

**POINT 3 - THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE.** Cf. Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Psalms 19:7 "The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." Psalms 119:130 "The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple."

- Many thought during this time that the Scriptures could only be understood by educated folk. Jesus debunked that by asking questions of religious leaders "Have you not read? Have you never read in the Scriptures? You are wrong because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?"
- Only the redeemed can truly understand the Scriptures. Because God gives us the Holy Spirit to understand, cf. 1 Corinthians 2:14-16
- A man who is unsaved, yet he is seeking to know the truth and begins to prove the Bible or search it, God will supernaturally open his heart.
- Let's affirm a working definition of clarity of Scripture "It is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it."

Lets ask a question.

- What would happen to the church if most believers gave up reading the Bible for themselves and listened only to Bible teachers or read books about the Bible? (It was reading the Bible for themselves that launched the reformation)
- Leaders in Martin Luther's day wanted the Bible kept in Latin so only educated leaders could explain it to the people. Religious leaders killed people who were caught with english copies of God's word or were caught translating to english for the common, everyday people to read.

Concluding thoughts:

There is great danger, even here, for us to let the words of Scripture be replaced by something cool, smooth and soothing. JC Ryle wrote of the danger of losing the gospel, even in the church, in the 1800's "*You may spoil the gospel by substitution. You have only to withdraw from the eyes of the sinner the grand object which the Bible proposes to faith—Jesus Christ—and to substitute another object in His place... and the mischief is done.*" Furthermore he says "*You may spoil the gospel by addition. You have only to add to Christ, the grand object of faith, some other objects as equally worthy of honor, and the mischief is done.*"

Do you believe the Bible is the final authority for faith and practice? Do you believe today, the Bible has the ability to reveal the sinful, destitute, hell bound ways of a sinner and redeem him from the clutches of eternal death? I say today, cling, grasp, hold on to, and believe that we have the words of God available to us. Let us use, cherish, and cling to them. IT IS WRITTEN!