

The Positive Argument

God repeatedly declares the value of His own words and aligns Himself with them. Every word that comes from God is reliable, stable, trustworthy, and the very basis of our faith and confidence.

Psalm 138:2 - I will bow down toward Your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.

The Jesus Examples

Rich man and Lazarus – they have Moses and the prophets

And he (the rich man) said, “Then I beg you, father (Abraham), that you send him (Lazarus) to my father’s house — for I have five brothers — in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.” But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.” But he said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!” But he said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.” (Luke 16:31)

If they won’t believe the Word of God, they won’t repent of their evil unbelief, even if someone were to rise from the grave.

Jesus on Emmaus Road – hid Himself until they saw him in the word.

And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:25-27)

Jesus insisted that His disciples see Him in the Scripture before He revealed Himself to them in the flesh. He prioritized what the word of

God said – even placing it above the physical reality they were experiencing at that very moment.

Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (Luke 24:44).

And it came about while He said these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice, and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts at which You nursed." But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it." (Luke 11:27)

Matthew 4:1-4

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" (from Deut. 8:3)

Not only did Jesus reply to Satan, but He did it with the Word of God ... three times! Matthew 4:5:11

Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'; and 'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'" Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'" (from Deut. 6:16) Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" (Deut 5:7) Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

If Jesus was able to drive off the temptations of Satan by standing on the Word – shouldn't we?

Hebrews 4: 12-13

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

And it's no accident that in Revelation 19:15 Jesus return with a sword proceeding from His mouth -- And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Revelation 19:11-16)

The Correct Reaction

John 5:45-47

The message of truth is instrumental to not only believing, but to believing properly. And we must believe the whole thing. No picking and choosing.

Phil. 2:14-16

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove

yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Romans 10:17!

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Humans come and go. The best preachers and expositors of the word in history have all died. Generation by generation men and women are raised up to call people to God through the knowledge of His word.

People pass, the word remains. The word does its work. It fulfills its purpose.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever (Isaiah 40:8)

As Christ said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Matt. 24:35)

It's about the word of God. When we open the Bible and stand before other people with the intention of teaching or preaching about God, we can do no better than to stick to the text and say what the text says, because the text is the very word of God. Why would you want to impose your opinion, your cleverness, or your creativity onto something that is already eternal and perfect? Why would you allegorize what is precise and clear?

Titus 1:1-4

Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior; to Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the

Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Read 2Timothy 3:16 - 4:1-2

“I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.”

Romans 10:17 – Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 17:20-21 - “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may ^[a]believe that You sent Me.

“The Church’s greatest mistakes occur when the people of God believe what a leader says without examining that instruction in the light of Scripture.” – Bryan Chapell