

Christians refer to the bible as the Word of God. Others consider it as ancient, out of touch with today's reality, and unproven. Unbelievers also state that religions who claim the bible as God's Word teach and live in complete opposition to what it says, and labels Christians as hypocrites.

So, the question is, what is, or better yet, who is the Word of God? In the Old Testament, God spoke through men to make known His will to His people, such as Moses, Noah, David, Solomon, Isaiah, and many others. Then, as promised, He sent His only Son, Jesus, to bring us the Living Word of God.

John 1:1-3 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." And then verse 14 adds, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

From these scriptures alone, we get the revelation that Christ is the very Word of God, being God the Son Himself. Do we limit the Living Word of God to only sit in our bookshelf, or does He actually and effectively reside in our heart?

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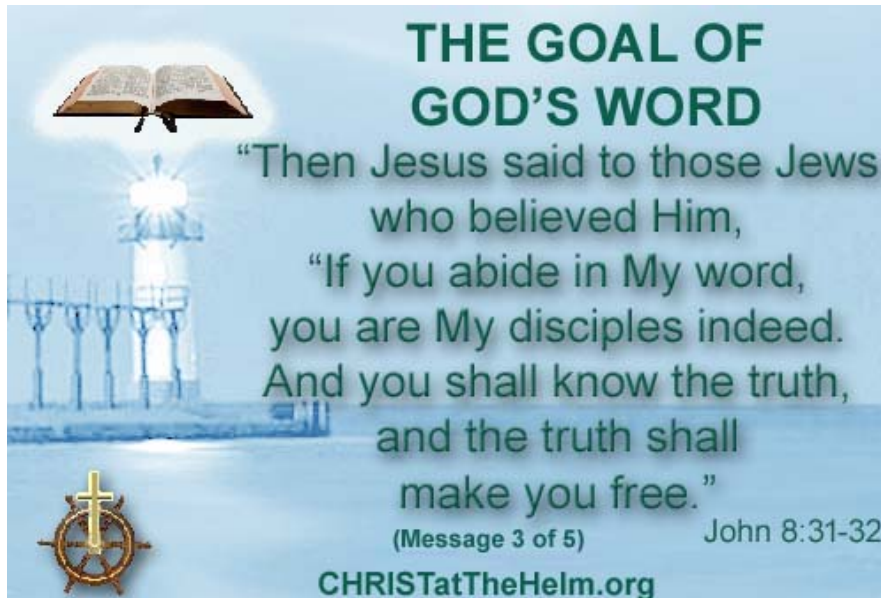


What's the purpose for searching the Word of God, in essence studying the bible? Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." In other words, through studying the Word of God, we not only find out what God desires from us, but very importantly how we actually fare in comparing our lives to His Word. That's why Paul in Romans 15:4 said, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." So through the study of God's Word, we find guidance, get convicted, but very importantly, it brings us hope.

What does it mean "Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path?" (Psalm 119:105) As in life, we walk one step at a time, always keeping an eye at our feet to avoid obstacles and problems. Spiritually, we must also keep watch of our steps, set our eyes towards the destination and follow the straight path of His Word. This will then lead us to the ultimate goal to be with God and Christ one day.

How is it working for us right now?

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**THE GOAL OF
GOD'S WORD**

“Then Jesus said to those Jews
who believed Him,
“If you abide in My word,
you are My disciples indeed.
And you shall know the truth,
and the truth shall
make you free.”

(Message 3 of 5) John 8:31-32

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What should our goal be in studying God's Word? In other words, what's the core and profound motive to seek the knowledge of the Word of God? Jesus' answer in the gospel of John is that it will give us God's truth, and as a result it will set us free if we espouse it and live by God's will for us.

Paul in Romans 10:17 said, “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” In essence, in Jesus' time there was no written bible available, so people heard the pure Word of God through Jesus and the apostles. This is how people built their faith in God. Today we have the Word of God in print available everywhere so we can avail ourselves of the knowledge to apply to our lives... entirely... to be set free!

As Jesus was speaking to a crowd, “a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed *is* the womb that bore You, and *the* breasts which nursed You!” He replied, “More than that, blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:27-28) The bottom line is, unless we apply the whole truth of God to our lives, we might fool people, even ourselves, but we'll never fool God.

Shouldn't that actually be our ultimate goal... Live as Christ taught us?

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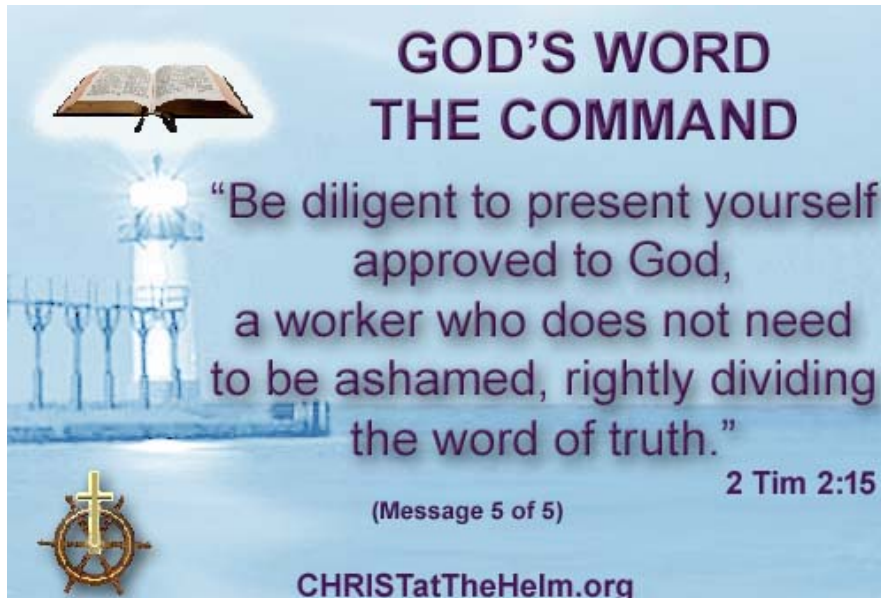
Is there ultimate power in Christ, the Word of God? In Isaiah 40:8, through the prophet God said this: “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” In plain words, we’ll all die, so does nature through time, but God’s Word never will as it is eternal.

In Isaiah 55:11 God added, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.” So, let’s not kid ourselves and think that true belief in Christ is a passing thing that eventually people grow out of. It’s either we believe, apply His Word to our lives and receive God’s power for this life and eternity, or succumb eternally to the same power in a most atrocious way to have refused to abide by His Word.

That’s why Jesus said in Mat 7:24, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” In other words, either we build on the crumbling foundation of the world, or we do on Christ. That’s why as well Paul said in Rom 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

Which power do we live by?

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**GOD'S WORD
THE COMMAND**

**“Be diligent to present yourself
approved to God,
a worker who does not need
to be ashamed, rightly dividing
the word of truth.”**

2 Tim 2:15

(Message 5 of 5)

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Joshua 1:8 is a most descriptive scripture emphasizing the importance God gave to His Word: “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Notice it is not offered as an option, but rather it is a command so we can achieve the purpose of our faith: receive guidance through the Holy Spirit to live this life by the power of God, and attain the goal of eternal life with God. That’s why as well we’re enjoined to use discernment and wisdom in sharing the word of God; not for personal gain or profit, nor to give our opinions that cater to the flesh, but in all truth and sincerity with the only intent to share His Word.

James 1:22 clarifies the command this way: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” In essence, we learn, meditate on God’s Word, make a conscious decision to apply it to our lives, and move forward day by day towards the promise of eternal life. That’s why Col 3:2 says, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Where does our mind point us towards right now?

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