

THE WORD: WRITTEN DOWN AND MADE FLESH

I. Isaiah 5:20-24 & John 1:1-5 & 9-13

A. As shared last Sunday, God's Word is never old fashioned or culturally irrelevant. It's always spot on and it often reveals where we're way off. That's not only true now but also down through the ages. Few men have died for worthless opinions or mere bits and pieces of conventional wisdom. Few have died for lies, half-truths, or fleeting public sentiment. But multitudes have given their lives with respect to their convictions regarding the Word of God--for what it says and *Who* it represents. This will continue until the full consummation of the Kingdom of God.

B. Before going to our main text, let's look closely at several key Scriptures regarding the Word of God i.e. the Word on the Word. These may sound familiar...

1) Psalm 12:6 (ESV) **6** *The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.*

2) Hebrews 4:12-13 (ESV) **12** *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

3) 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) **16** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

4) Matthew 24:35 & Luke 21:33 (NIV) are identical as Jesus declares: **35** *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.*

C. An unknown writer wrote what was formerly found in the introductory pages of Gideon Bibles: "This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity."

D. The time is coming, and in many ways has arrived, that if you believe the words I just read regarding this Book, you're increasing going to be considered out of the cultural mainstream and looked upon as foolish, out of touch with reality, even called a hate monger. To believe the Word of God is going to cost you more and more over time and some of you may not be willing to pay. John Wesley said: "I want to know one thing, the way to heaven, how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book! Oh, give me that book! At any price, give me the Book of God! I have it; here is knowledge enough for me."

E. Isaiah 5:20-24 (ESV) is our first main text. The prophet warns Judah and by extension warns us...

1) **V20: 20** *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! (Who does that? Politicians, professors, secular prophets, media pundits, and people of all stripes!)*

2) **V21-23: 21** *Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight! **22** Woe to those who are heroes (OV: **champions**) at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, **23** who acquitt the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right! (OV "**deprive the innocent of justice...**")*

3) **V24: 24** *Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. (Nobody ultimately gets away with anything! If someone does not have their corruption of sin dealt with at the cross where Jesus pays for it, they'll pay for it when they face their Great White Throne judgment and is sentenced to eternal damnation!)*

F. Rejecting the Word of God is more than rejecting written words and rules. It actually means rejecting the Author of those words and particularly the Son of God who is the *Word made flesh*. This is the quintessential life & death scenario.

II. Communion

A. John 1:1-5 & 9-14 (ESV) is our second key text and will take us to the Lord's Table...

1) V1-2: *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. (Who is the Word?)*

2) V3-5: *3 All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... (The Maker of all, the Giver of Life, became the Savior of all who would believe in Him. The Bread & Cup remind us.)*

3) V9-10: *9 The true Light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. (The Owner of All was treated like a thief and summarily executed among thieves.)*

4) V11: *11 He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. (He was rejected by men and this innocent Man, God the Son, was crucified for our sins. The Bread & Cup remind us.)*

5) 12 *But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, (O how I pray this is you!) He gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (The Bread & Cup remind the children of God the cost of our adoption. And our adoption is confirmed by Jesus' resurrection. How do we know? The Bible (This Book) tells us so!)*

*** Pray & Serve Communion...**

*** Benediction:** 1 Peter 1:22-25 (NIV) **will take us home:** *22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, (Peter quotes Isaiah 40:6-8) "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Isaiah 5:20-24 (ESV)

20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! **21** Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight! **22** Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, **23** who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right! **24** Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble, and as dry grass sinks down in the flame, so their root will be as rottenness, and their blossom go up like dust; for they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

John 1:1-5 & 9-14 (ESV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. **5** The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...

9 The true Light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. **12** But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Psalms 12:6 (ESV)

6 The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

Hebrews 4:12-13 (ESV)

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And no creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Matthew 24:35 (NIV)

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

Luke 21:33 (NIV)

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

This Book

An unknown writer said, "This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity.

Quote by John Wesley

"I want to know one thing, the way to heaven, how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book! Oh, give me that book! At any price, give me the Book of God! I have it; here is knowledge enough for me."

1 Peter 1:22-25 (NIV)

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. **23** For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. **24** For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, **25** but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Film Clips & Article Links

"Word Made Flesh" - Justin Rizzo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQRVIRfBxQ0>

Jesus Is/The Spoken Word - Clayton Jennings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kLvWZ-DG6s>

5 Reasons to Read the Bible When You Feel Absolutely Nothing - Stephen Altrogge

<https://theblazingcenter.com/2016/12/why-read-bible.html>

Bonus Stuff

Job 23:11-12 (ESV)

11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept his way and have not turned aside. **12** I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my portion of food.

Psalms 119:15-16, 102-106, 161-168 (ESV)

15 I will meditate on Your precepts and fix my eyes on Your ways. **16** I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word... **101** I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word. **102** I do not turn aside from Your rules, for You have taught me. **103** How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! **104** Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. **105** Your word is a lamp to my feet

and a light to my path. **106** I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep Your righteous rules... **161** Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your words. **162** I rejoice at Your word like one who finds great spoil. **163** I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love Your law. **164** Seven times a day I praise you for Your righteous rules. **165** Great peace have those who love Your law; nothing can make them stumble. **166** I hope for Your salvation, O LORD, and I do Your commandments. **167** My soul keeps Your testimonies; I love them exceedingly. **168** I keep Your precepts and testimonies, for all my ways are before You.

Isaiah 40:6-8 (ESV)

6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. **7** The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. **8** The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 55:8-11 (ESV)

8 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. **9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. **10** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, **11** so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Matthew 4:1-4 (ESV)

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. **3** And the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4** But He answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Luke 8:19-21 (ESV)

19 Then His mother and His brothers came to Him, but they could not reach Him because of the crowd. **20** And He was told, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." **21** But He answered them, "My mother and My brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

John 8:31-38 (ESV)

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **33** They answered Him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, 'You will become free'?" **34** Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. **35** The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. **36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. **37** I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill Me because My word finds no place in you. **38** I speak of what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

John 17:17-19 (ESV)

17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. **18** As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (ESV)

1 I 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: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **3** For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **5** As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

James 1:22-25 (ESV)

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. **24** For he looks at himself and goes away

and at once forgets what he was like. **25** But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The Word of God - The Common Book of Prayer

"Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of Thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which though has given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever, Amen."

Quote from Augustine

"Let us therefore yield ourselves and bow to the authority of the Holy Scriptures, which can neither err nor deceive."

Quote by Jerome

"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Jesus."

Martin Luther - Studying the Bible Like Gathering Apples

"I study my Bible like I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest may fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf. I search the Bible as a whole like shaking the whole tree. Then I shake every limb--study book after book. Then I shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters. Then I shake every twig, or a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences and words and their meanings."

Quote by George Whitefield

"I began to read the Holy Scriptures upon my knees, laying aside all other books, and praying over, if possible, every line and word. This proved meat indeed and drink indeed to my soul. I daily received fresh life, light and power from above."

Quote by George Müller

"I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God, and to meditation on it. ... What is the food of the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God; and....not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts."

C.H. Spurgeon On The Book Of God

"I would recommend you either believe God up to the hilt, or else not to believe at all. Believe this book of God, every letter of it, or else reject it. There is no logical standing place between the two. Be satisfied with nothing less than a faith that swims in the deeps of divine revelation; a faith that paddles about the edge of the water is poor faith at best. It is little better than a dry-land faith, and is not good for much."

Quote by A.W. Tozer

"The Word of God and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select just a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than the whole Bible can make a whole Christian."

Phillip Brooks on the Bible

"The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks through his telescope he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks at his telescope, he does not see anything but that. The Bible is a thing to be looked through to see that which is beyond; but most people only look at it and so they see only the dead letter."

Quote by Arcturus Z. Conrad

"This book out-lives, out-loves, out-fits, out-lasts, out-reaches, out-runs, and out-ranks all books. This book is faith producing. It is hope awakening. It is death destroying, and those who embrace it find forgiveness of sin."

Quote by Martin Luther

"You may as well quit reading and hearing the Word of God, and give it to the devil, if you do not desire to live according to it."

Quote from Francis Chan

"Don't fall into the trap of studying the Bible without doing what it says."

Quote by Martin Luther

"I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount."

Quote by R.C. Sproul

"Here, then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy."

A Portrait Painted

By Wayne Hudson

It was 1898 and Ben had left the East 8 years ago to head out West in hopes of making his fortune. Well he wasn't rich, but he had accumulated over 300 acres of good land and built a comfortable farm house on it. He raised wheat, corn, and all of his vegetables. He had managed to build his herd of cattle to over 200 head. Having accomplished all of this in only 8 years, he decided that it was now time.

The ad that he placed in the New York newspaper said, "Wanted: A good woman willing to be a pen pal. Marriage is a possibility for the right woman." Before long, he began receiving letters from Molly. Their correspondence soon turned into love for each other. Now, here he stood in the Kansas City train station waiting to finally meet her.

When the train arrived, there were a lot of women getting off. Suddenly, he yelled, "Molly -- over here!"

She looked his way, walked over to him, smiled and held out her hand. He took it for a moment, then let it go. She said, "How did you know who I was?"

He then reached into the back pocket of his overalls and said, "From these here letters."

"But there are no pictures in them."

He dropped his head a bit and said, "Oh yes there are! There are lots of pictures in your words." You see, he had spent hours reading every word -- looking for every little clue that would tell him who Molly really was. He had fallen in love with her words -- words that had painted her portrait.

God's precious Word paints a vivid portrait of who He is. We as His bride should fall in love with His Word so that we can then fall in love with its Author.

- From: *Many A Tear Has To Fall* by Wayne Hudson, Padon Press.