

Attributes Of God's Word

Introduction. In Isaiah 55:10-11, Isaiah gives several reasons why people should seek the Lord. One of the reasons is that God's word will never return to Him void, but it will always accomplish His purposes. His purpose is that all mankind be made anew in Christ.

The Bible can accomplish this wonderful task because it is inspired by God and because of its particular attributes. It will certainly benefit us to study these attributes that we may have a greater knowledge of God's holy and precious will (Psalm 119:105).

I. ***God's Word Is Powerful***

A. God's word has saving power.

1. In Romans 1:16, the word of God is said to have the power to save. It has the power of save because it reveals the mind of God in regards to His eternal plan of redeeming men from sin (1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Ephesians 1:3-4).
2. To those who are perishing in unbelief, the word of God is foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18, 23-24). However, to those who believe, it is the wisdom of God.

B. God's word has judging power.

1. God's word is not a dead letter. It is energetic and powerful and can lay open man's heart like a surgeon can lay open the flesh (Hebrews 4:11-13). This is a personification of the Bible.
2. It is the standard by which all of us will be judged (John 12:44-50).

II. ***God's Word Is Perfect***

A. It contains all we need for maturity and obedience.

1. In 2 Peter 1:3, Christians are assured that the word of God has everything which pertains to life and godliness. If we have "all things," then God's word by definition is perfect (Psalm 19:7; James 1:25).
2. If God's word is perfect, then following it will make us perfect or complete (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We need to be complete or perfect in order to be righteous in the sight of God.

B. We must not be guilty of altering it in anyway.

1. If the Lord's word is perfect and complete, we cannot add to it (Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Numbers 22:18; 24:13; Galatians 3:15). If I break a covenant on the earth, I could be put in jail. People do the same to the New Testament on a regular basis and expect no punishment from God whatsoever.

2. If one does not abide in the teaching of Christ, one does not have fellowship with God (2 John 9-11; John 8:31). Abiding in the teaching of Christ means remaining true to what that word states or says. Uzzah, Achan, Ananias, and Sapphira all wanted to change God's word but paid the terrible consequences.

III. ***God's Word Is Plain***

- A. God's revelation was always intended to be understood.
 1. Paul stated in Ephesians 3:4 that his letter, written by inspiration, could be understood. The word "understand" means "to perceive with the mind." This is in contrast to a perception with feelings (John 8:32; 1 John 2:21).
 2. The word of God is to be understood through rational thought and reason, rather than everyone's "I believe" or "I think" (2 Kings 5:11). Since God created us with logical, rational minds, it follows that His revelation will be logical and rational.
- B. Failure to understand indicates failure on our part.
 1. John 7:17 states that the prerequisite to doing the Lord's will, is the desire or will. For example, did Jesus walk on the water (Matthew 14:25) or did God part the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-22)? Those are easy to understand because we have the desire to understand.
 2. Can we not figure out the plain and simple truth on matters such a baptism or once saved, always saved or marriage, divorce and remarriage without having some kind of slant or spin on Bible passages? We accept other doctrines without hesitation!

IV. ***God's Word Has A Pattern***

- A. God's revelation is not a jumbled, incoherent mass of statements.
 1. If God's word is meant to reveal His mind in regards to redemption and salvation, does it not make sense that God would desire to communicate to us in more than just a haphazard way (Hebrews 8:4-5).
 2. Statements, examples and necessary or logical conclusions all form the basis for God communicating with man. If you look in Exodus 25-40, God's plans for the tabernacle were very specific. He left nothing unrevealed.
- B. Man has always been warned not to break this pattern.
 1. Man breaks the pattern by doing what God has not said, such as in the case with Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-2).

2. When we teach that baptism is not essential to salvation, or make one church as good as another, or teach that the Holy Spirit dwells in each one of us and moves us to being saved, we are breaking the pattern.

V. ***God's Word Demands Practice***

- A. God's word is not for speculation, but for practice.
 1. Jesus stated in Matthew 4:4 that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.
 2. This implies that the word of God should be used for living in righteousness (Hebrews 5:11-14; 1 Peter 2:2). We need to obey from the heart (Romans 6:17).
- B. God has revealed what is necessary for salvation.
 1. Deuteronomy 29:29 states that the secret things belong to God but the revealed things belong to us that we might observe all the words of the law.
 2. Matthew 7:24-27 likened hearing and action upon His words to one who built a house upon the rock.

Conclusion. The Lord's word, which we make our stand upon, is full of power and truth. It is plain and has an understandable pattern, which we use to live righteously in our Lord Jesus. Psalm 119:173-174 says, "Let Thy hand be ready to help me, For I have chosen Thy precepts. I long for Thy salvation, O Lord, And Thy law is my delight."