

THE PREEMINENCE OF THE WORDS OF GOD

In Relation to the God-Ordained Utterances of Man

God's Words are above *man's words*, even man's lawful Spirit-led words. They are, in essence, superior. They are all-sufficient, perfect, and infallible in every way (*Ps 12:6-7; 19:7; 2 Tim 3:16*). They are self-attesting, self-authenticating, and have no lack whatsoever. They adequately and effectively communicate *God's mind* via *God's Spirit* without the aid of any outside influence. The Scriptures, or '*It is written*', are the Christian's sole objective standard for truth and practice (*Ps 119:97-98, 100; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 3:15-17; 2 Pet 1:19-21; 1 Jn 4:5-6*).

God is perfect and complete; He has no need. He certainly does not need man. Yet, He has ordained that redeemed men be included in the execution of his plan. Hence, God who is limitless by nature, has limited Himself in that He will use the human vessel of the church (*Matt 28:19-20; Mk 16:15-18; Rom 10:14; Eph 4:11-12*). Likewise, the Scriptures, the very *Words of God*, are wholly sufficient and have no need for the *words of men*. Nonetheless, the Scriptures themselves command that *man's Spirit-led words* are ordained to support, compliment, and exalt God's Words (*Jon 3:2; Isa 58:1; Jer 7:2; Acts 5:20; 2 Tim 4:1-2*). However, simply quoting the Scriptures does not guarantee a man is a good witness. Quoting Scripture while not being submitted to Scripture is a sure formula to be an anti-witness (*Ps 50:16-17; Matt 23:3; Jam 1:22*). A sinner or religious hypocrite can quote a hundred Scriptures and that would not be better than a Spirit-led saint only quoting one, because *sin* and *flesh* defiles the utterance.

Thus, the highest and best representation of *Jesus* is the one who is fully led by the *Holy Ghost* (*Rom 8:14; 1 Pet 1:12*). *Jesus* promised He would make us *fishers of men* if we would follow Him (*Matt 4:19*). So, the key to being a good witness is to be a good Christian and surely being filled with *God's Spirit* and giving oneself to *prayer* and to the *Word of God* would be central to that endeavor (*Acts 1:8, 6:4*).

The *Holy Ghost* will emphasize the *Scriptures* (*Jn 16:13-14; 1 Jn 5:7*). That is our first and most pressing duty—to tell those we minister to, whether saint or sinner, exactly what God says about it (*Mk 16:15; 2 Tim 4:1-2*). Yet, '*preaching*' is ordained and commanded both in the *declaration of the Gospel* and the *discipleship of the church* (*Rom 1:14; Eph 4:11-12*). Moreover, '*preaching*' by Biblical definition, often includes expounding, answering, reasoning, etc. (*2 Tim 4:2; 1 Pet 3:15; Jude 1:3*). Thus, we must acknowledge this is how the *Spirit of God* will often lead. So again, the highest, best, most superior witness is the one who is led by the *Spirit of God*.

and who with spiritual sensitivity obeys His promptings. This may result in one or two things...

- It may be that the *Spirit* leads a man to only quote applicable Scripture; if so, *that is best*.
- On the other hand, it may be the *Spirit* leads a man to establish Biblical authority by quoting the Scripture and then have him expound, reason, and apply; if so, *this would be best*.

However, the *Spirit of God* would not lead someone to intentionally avoid using Scripture.

So, in summary: God's Words, the Scriptures, (*It is written*) are always ontologically superior to man's words, even Spirit-led and Spirit-ordained words, whether it's expounding, reasoning, elaboration, etc. (*Ps 138:2*). God's Words are superior both in authority and latent divine power (*Lk 4:32; Jn 6:63; Heb 1:3*). There is no valid comparison between the *Words of God* and the very *best words of men*. As far as God is above the holiest of men, His Word is above and beyond the most brilliant and persuasive words of men. However, on a situational level, *Spirit-directed words* of anointed and redeemed men are spiritually indispensable and necessary to accomplish God's will, as the Scriptures teach. Such human utterance, under the authority and spiritual umbrella of *God's Words*, namely, preaching, teaching, contending for the faith, and reasoning in support thereof, must be considered God-blessed, God-ordained, and *absolutely best* for the given circumstance at hand. Yet, in these situations, *man's Spirit-led words* should never be considered ontologically equal to '*It is written*', for such utterances are subject to and depend on the *authority of Scripture* and not vice versa. Such words will not exalt man but magnify God and undergird, support, defend, and lift the very *divine Words* they are coupled with and *utterly depend upon*.

Developing arguments, using analogies, apologetics, etc. can be profitable and even Spirit-led. However, the *Scriptures* must be our highest priority. Practically speaking, '*It is written*' will be the central and primary thrust of all Spirit-led, Biblical ministry.

–B.W.

