

Lesson 2

Blessings of the Word

God's Word never fails. "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89). God put His approval on His own Word by declaring that at the throne of God the Word is forever settled, for heaven is God's throne. Jesus declared the infallibility of the Word when He said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

Peter emphasized this same thought and declared that the preaching of the gospel brings the never-failing Word to us. "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (I Peter 1:25).

Since God's Word never fails, we will never lack spiritual food, for the Word is food for the spiritual man. God said that a person "doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD" (Deuteronomy 8:3).

One man of God declared that he esteemed the words of God more than his necessary food (Job 23:12). We know that natural food is necessary to keep the body alive, but Job regarded the Word of God more highly than natural food!

Eating the Word brings joy and rejoicing to the heart. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart" (Jeremiah 15:16). (See Psalm 119:103; Matthew 4:4; I Peter 2:2.)

The Word of God will *prove itself* to any obedient person. In John 7:17, Jesus explained, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine." In other words, if we do what we know, then we will know what to do!

The Word of God is our judge. If we let the Word judge us now, we will not be judged hereafter. "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God" (I Peter 4:17). The house of God is the church of God, according to I Timothy 3:15. We are given the wonderful privilege of *judging ourselves* to escape the judgment of God. I Corinthians 11:31 makes this clear: "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged."

However, he who rejects God's Word will be judged by the Word. Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

The truth of the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) proves that we do not have to wait until a future judgment to know that we are right with God. If we wonder how we stand before God, we can use the Word to examine our heart and life. *It is our New Testament privilege to know that we are right with God here and now.*

The Word furnishes our weapons of warfare. "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (II Corinthians 10:4).

God would not send his soldiers to battle without equipping them to fight. Paul said, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17). He did not say that the sword was ours but that it is the *sword of the Spirit*. The only way we can effectively use the Word is to be directed by the Spirit of God.

In Peter, we find a man who exchanged a carnal sword for a spiritual one that was powerful in the kingdom of God. After Jesus told Peter to put up *his* sword into its sheath (John 18:10-11), Peter had no other weapon to fight with. We can imagine how helpless this man felt in the face of that armed multitude with his only weapon denied him. Peter, however, did not always remain helpless and empty-handed! For God had another sword sharper and more powerful than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). God entrusted this sword to Peter on the Day of Pentecost. We can follow the ministry of Peter in the first chapters of the Book of Acts and see how successful he

was while possessing this mighty weapon of warfare.

Since the Word of God is the *Spirit's* sword, those who do not have the Spirit are often unfruitful and weak when they try to use and preach the Word. On the other hand we see how God honors His Word when preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The anointed prophet Jeremiah knew this and said, "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29).

We notice also that God's Word, with few exceptions, was given to God's people. Scripture is given so "that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:17) (See Psalm 119:11, 130, 165.)

It is true that the Word of God warns the wicked and commands them to repent. But otherwise the Word of God was written to the people of God. This truth settles many questions that arise. Too often some people try to judge the world by laws that were given to the saints. The Sermon on the Mount was for God's people. It is impossible for these things to be practiced by sinful people.

It is equally important not to apply to the saints of God some Scripture passages that refer to sinners. For instance, Romans 3:10 says, "There is none righteous, no, not one." Some take this verse and teach saints that it is impossible to live holy lives. However, verses 9 and 19 indicate that Romans 3:10 refers to unbelievers who have not been justified and sanctified by Jesus Christ.