
Words of Truth

Not To Emphasize The Red Letters Above The Rest

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Bible publishers often have what are called “red letter editions” of the Bible. The red letters are most often what the publisher believes to be words directly spoken by Jesus. There are many that seem to think that those words in red are the most important ones in the Scriptures. I put together a sermon to preach on this and have never gotten around to actually preaching it. Thus, I thought I would share it here for your studies. So, here it is:

I. Introduction: People often downplay the history recorded in Genesis, the Law of Moses, the prophets, the Psalms, and the words of the Apostles; because they think the words directly spoken by Jesus are more important. This is not right!

A. We know the Law of Moses was nailed to the cross (**Colossians 2:14**).

1. The Law of Moses didn't offer salvation (**Acts 13:38-39**).

2. It needed to go so that there could be a new covenant (**Romans 7:1-6** and **Hebrews 9:15-17**).

B. There is great importance in what Jesus said. We know that Jesus has had all authority since the first century (**John 3:35**, **John 5:22-27**, and **Colossians 1:12-20**).

1. Disobedience to the will of Christ comes with a price (**Hebrews 10:26-31**).

2. Those who try to circumvent Christ are thieves and robbers (**John 10:1-18**; cf. **John 14:6**).

3. However, even Jesus said, His words are not the only words we are expected to live by (**Luke 4:4**).

II. Body: All Scriptures Are Profitable (**II Timothy 3:15-17**).

A. Though the Law and Prophets do not govern us today, even Jesus Himself used them to teach (**Luke 24:27**; **24:36-44**).

1. Remember, Jesus didn't destroy the law (**Matthew 5:17**).

2. Jesus aligned Himself with what Moses taught (**John 5:39-47**).

3. The Apostles used the Law and Prophets to teach (**Acts 13:13-26**, **Romans 15:8-13**, **II Timothy 3:6-9**, and **Hebrews 11:1-40**).

B. Are the words of the Apostles second-place to those directly delivered by Jesus when He was in the flesh? NO (**I Corinthians 14:37** and **I Thessalonians 4:1-2**)!

1. When Jesus chose and sent forth His Apostles (**Matthew 10:1-5**), He made it clear that receiving them was equal to receiving Him and our Father (**Matthew 10:40**; cf. **John 13:20**).
 2. The Apostles were, even after Jesus ascended into Heaven, guided to speak HIS words HIS way (**John 14:26**, **John 16:1-15**, and **I Corinthians 2:1-13**).
 3. The preaching of the Gospel is not just preaching about Jesus. The Gospel is about preaching from faith to faith (**Romans 1:16-17**).
- C. We have to know how to use all Scriptures properly (**I Timothy 1:1-11** and **II Timothy 2:14-18**).
1. For example, fleshly circumcision was required for Jews before and also under the Law of Moses (**Genesis 17:10-14** and **Leviticus 12:1-3**). Can we teach this today as it once was? NO!
 - a. In Christ, circumcision doesn't matter (**I Corinthians 7:19** and **Colossians 3:10-11**).
 - b. It was done for certain reasons in service to the Gospel (**Acts 16:1-5**; cf. **I Corinthians 9:19-23**).
 - c. However, the moment someone tries to instruct such as today's law, that individual has erred (**Galatians 2:1-5** and **Galatians 5:1-6**).
 2. In another example, consider how that a man named John came teaching as the Law began to pass away (**Luke 16:16**). Though he was sent by God, are his words as equally binding as Jesus' and the Apostles? NO!
 - a. John was the authorized forerunner (**Matthew 3:1-12**).
 - b. John taught the baptism of repentance (**Mark 1:4** and **Acts 13:24**).
 - c. What he taught was the binding truth for a time. Jesus submitted to it Himself (**Matthew 3:13-17**). However, soon afterward it was done away in Christ (**Acts 18:24-19:7**).
 3. The Law of Moses condemned adultery (**Deuteronomy 5:18**). Is it all the same today? NO!
 - a. Under Moses adultery brought the death penalty (**Leviticus 20:10**).
 - b. In Christ, conversion is allowed (**John 8:1-11** and **I Corinthians 6:9-11**).
 - c. Even among the saints, wherein a death penalty once was the law (**Leviticus 20:11**) such is not the case now (**I Corinthians 5:1-8** and **II Corinthians 2:5-11**).
 - d. In this, and in other things we study of old, we can better understand that the Law of Moses had a significant purpose (**Galatians 3:8-29**).
 - e. We can learn from errors of the past (**I Corinthians 10:1-12**).
 - f. However, we have to handle it all correctly (**II Peter 3:15-18**).

III. Conclusion: We cannot get caught up in the idea that the words spoken directly by Jesus are the only ones that matter. All of the word of God works together (**Acts 28:23** and **II Peter 3:1-2**).