

Words and the Word

With my recent bout of laryngitis, I have greater appreciation for the value of the spoken word. And I rejoice that there is the written word that we have to communicate. It is truly amazing that we are able to reduce our sounds of speech to written symbols (letters) on a page – so that we may communicate beyond the spoken word, and that we may have a more enduring expression of the quickly spoken and forgotten words. It's even more amazing that we can transmit the spoken word via telephony, and have it recorded electronically.

While our age is one of pictures, do you ever think how much depends on the words that accompany a video, a film, or the like? Would you want to watch a silent film with no captions? It would not be understandable. We rely on the spoken and the written word.

When God created the world and all that is in it in the space of six days, He did that with His spoken *Word*. In fact, we see in Creation the work of the Trinity at once in Genesis 1:1-2. We see God's plan from the Father, God's power through the Holy Spirit, and God's Word through the Son (the pre-incarnate Christ).

Truly, all that God has done He has done by a *word*. When we think about it, it isn't surprising as since God is Spirit, there must be power expressed some way other than with hands. When we want to do something, we have to employ our body in some fashion. We use our hands, our feet, our fingers – all to accomplish something our mind conceives. God, without those physical hands or feet, rather speaks a *word* – and it becomes a *Word* with power to do in this universe what He has conceived.

With a *word*, He spoke the universe into existence from nothing.

With *words*, He communicated to men like Abraham, Israel, Moses, David, and the prophets and then moved them to write those words for a permanent memorial.

With the *Word* in flesh – the Lord Jesus Christ -- He brought about our salvation. He lived that perfect life of righteousness in our behalf. He

died the perfect death of sacrifice to atone for our sins. The Bible says that “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

With the *Word*, He formed His Church, and He maintains His Church through that Word. In Matthew 16 Jesus said (with words), “I will build My Church.” That Church was born on Pentecost with the preaching of the Word as it had been given through the Holy Spirit illumining the Old Testament.

With words, God explained what Christ was doing in the world. In fact, without the New Testament, could we have knowledge of, or understanding why, Jesus came into this world? We could not.

It all begins with His *Word*.

What is even more, God has given His Word to be written, so that it could be faithfully passed on from one generation to the next, and so that we could have an objective standard of faith and practice, and not merely an oral recollection of what someone thought was said by God. Ever played the game of “telephone,” where a certain piece of information is shared by one, and then to another, and then another, until it gets through the whole group playing? What is the result at the end is often very different than the original information given to start.

In addition, what God has given in His written Word, conforms closely to the Incarnate Word (the Lord Jesus Christ), and is testified to exactly by the Holy Spirit (our inner Witness to the Word), so much so that it is accurate to state, as my friend Bro. Larry Dentler is wont to do, that “the Word is the Word is the Word.” There is no contradiction among the Scriptures, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. They all agree with one another, completely.

All effective teaching and preaching concerning the things of God begin with what God has said. He has spoken (used words) to give us the Word, so we might know His mind, His purpose, and His goal in this universe to bring everything into conformity with His will.

This is why we emphasize reading and knowing the Word, so that we might more closely reflect our Lord Jesus Christ.

Look to the Word!

Pastor Craig Alan Myers