

The Apostles Doctrine

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The apostles quickly guided these new believers to a **God ordained lifestyle.**

- The first, which leads to the rest, is **We must commit to God's Word as the authority in our life.**

Why we need a canon

- Canon – 'reed' (standard of measurement). Rule of faith (Origen, 3rd century)
- An illogical belief in God
 - **"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).**
- Natural evidence
 - Textual evidence – 25,000 existing manuscripts, 99% agreement
 - Archeology
 - No other sacred text names people and places
 - Fulfilled prophecy
- **Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." (Luke 24:44)**
- There are so many fulfilled prophecies in the Old Testament they literally preached Christ from it in the first century!

Jesus will hold us accountable to His Word.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Matthew 24:35)

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. (John 12:48)

- Jesus is literally called "the Word" in John 1. You cannot separate God and His Word.

The struggle with belief

Many times, the scripture first offends before it enlightens our intellect.

- The uniqueness of the Christ
- God's rules about sex
 - Premarital – everyone's active
 - Co habitation – the new norm
 - Homosexuality – the BIG one today; more to follow (transgender, etc.)
- Tithing
- Eternal judgment
- Church attendance

Paul explains the root of this in Ephesians

¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ **having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; (Ephesians 4:17,18)**

What is the way to life giving faith in God's Word?

Jesus is the key for the scriptures to come alive,

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. (John 5:39,40)

- You have to know the Author!
- “Coming to Him” means He is your Source, and you are living life on His terms. He will not reveal His will otherwise. You have to bring an honest heart.
- *But as for the seed that landed on good soil, these are the ones who, after hearing the word, cling to it **with an honest and good heart**, and bear fruit with steadfast endurance. (Luke 8:15, NET)*
- If you have a problem with scripture, it is not with scripture, but with God!

How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? (John 5:44)

- This is where many young people struggle with God’s Word.
- This is why there are even some “Christian” leaders bailing on scripture on hot button issues today.

Mark 8:38

*“For whoever is ashamed of Me **and My words** in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*

- Do I really want the approval of spiritually adulterous people?
- You can’t ignore the scriptures you don’t like and then try to take the promise of forgiveness and eternal bliss in heaven literally.
- *Once you embrace the authority of God’s Word in your life, the scripture not only challenges you, it gives great **comfort**.*
 - *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just...”*
 - The hope of eternal life

So... how many of you will embrace the authority of Gods’ Word today?

Here’s God’s promise to you,

²⁴ *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to **a wise man who built his house on the rock**: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. (Matthew 7:24,25)*