***How Should We View the Bible?***

***(Jesus and the Will of God)***

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***Introduction:*** How should we read the revealed, written word of God?

 A. A preacher moved to a church several years ago and began to teach on “how
 should we read the Bible?”

 1. Rather than showing from the Bible how we ought to read it, many
 theologians were quoted and many disparaging remarks were made about
 brethren.

 2. Recently one of this man’s disciples enthusiastically shared this quote:

"God said it, I believe it, that settles it"...Uhhh...no...God said it, someone translated it into your language divorcing it from its own culture, you read it with a preconceived belief lens, then interpreted it and became convinced in your heart you knew what meant even though it bore no resemblance to the original audience or culture it was spoken into to begin with...”

 3. The fruits of this study were that the Bible was not authoritative! Also,
 those who try to read the Bible without the help of other men could not
 understand the Bible

 4. The purpose of this study is to let Jesus and His apostles show us how to
 respect and understand His will. **(Eph 3:3-5; 5:17)**

 B. Jesus had much to say about how to handle the word of God!

 1. We must seek to have the “mind of Christ” in us. **(Phil 2:5)**

 2. Rather than seek men let us seek the plain instructions of our Lord.

***I. The Mind of Christ in Prophecy***

 A. There are four servant songs in Isaiah that vividly describe the mind of Jesus.
 **(Isa 42, 49, 50, 52-53)**

 B. The power of the Servant begins with Hisear **(Isa 50:4-5)**

 1. His tongue indeed was powerful but it was guided by His ear.

 2. The Servant’s heart was opened to God. He really trusted God!

 3. It is a very risky thing to completely open your heart (ear) to another.

 4. If we would just truly listen then look at the power available to us.

 **(Psa 119:99; 1 Thess 2:13)**

 C. The ear of Christ led Him to the cross. **(Isa 50:6-7)**

 1. He was scourged, He was slapped, had his hair pulled out and was spit
 upon. **(Mt 26:67)**

 2. He was not in any way ashamed but determined.

 3. He had a face like flint. **(Ezek 3:8-9)**

 4. How many have tried to make you ashamed of what is right?

 5. Can you see what the disciples saw? **(Lk 9:51-53; Jn 11:16)**

 6. For what purpose has God placed *you* here on this earth?

***II. How did Jesus handle the words of God?***

 A. Jesus taught that the Old Testament was the very words of God!

 1. He claimed the writers were moved by the Holy Spirit. **(Mark 12:36)**

 2. He claimed the word of God is without contradiction. **(John 10:34-35)**

3. Man was to live by every word from God! **(Matt 4:4, 7, 10)**

 B. Jesus showed how God’s words are to be respected.

 1. Jesus would only do those things that He saw the Father do.
 **(Jn 5:19-20, 30)**

 2. Jesus wanted His followers to understand authority and to follow the
 Father just like He did. **(Jn 7:16-17)**

 3. The respect for the words of God would lead Jesus only to act when the
 Father gives Him instruction. This stand would lead Jesus to the cross and
 us to be free from sin! **(Jn 8:28-32; 12:32-33)**

 4. Jesus showed how we must empty ourselves and follow Him. When we do
 as Jesus did then we will honor the Father. **(Jn 12:25-28)**

***III. Jesus and the Apostles***

 A. If we stopped at the gospel accounts and did not look at the rest of the New
 Testament we could not know the mind of Christ!

 1. Jesus was preparing His apostles for the work of delivering the words the
 Father gave to Him to all mankind. **(Jn 16:12-15)**

 2. The work of the apostles was crucial to the work of Jesus Christ.
 **(Eph 3:3-5)**

 3. Jesus would have no voice, no instruction and even no offer of salvation
 without the Apostles and prophets having both spoken and written His
 word. **(Acts 2:38-39)**

 4. The early church was founded upon and sustained by the apostle’s
 doctrine. **(Acts 2:42; Eph 2:20)**

 5. Remember that the Holy Spirit was guiding the delivery of the word and
 Jesus promised that His word would be preserved! **(Mt 24:35)**

B. Jesus wants us to have the same mind as He did towards the Father’s will.

 **(Jn 12:48-50)**

 1. Whatever form God gives his word (historical narrative, poetry, prophecy,
 epistle) it is the very words of God and thus authoritative!

 2. There are some who claim that the New Testament is a “story” or
 “narrative” and as a consequence has no binding law for future
 generations to be found in its pages.

 3. How shall we read the Bible? What should be the place of women in
 “church?” What does Jesus say through the apostles? **(1 Cor 14:33-37)**

 C. It is these attitudes towards the words of God (authority) that Jesus proclaimed
 would be taught after He was raised from the dead. **(Mt 28:18-20)**

 1. When men become disciples of Christ they are identified by this attitude.

 2. We take what God has revealed and we only teach and practice what we
 are given. **(1 Pt 4:11)**

 3. If it is not given by God, it is not to be taught or practiced! **(1 Tim 1:3-4)**

***Conclusion:*** Do not be ashamed of the Lord or His apostles. **(Lk 9:26; 2 Tim 1:8)**