

# “It is Written”

The words "*it is written*" from Christ in response to Satan's temptations are important to us. In our short journey through this life, certainly Jesus Christ is our example. Our Lord used this response quite often in his ministry. This is evidence of the source of strength Christ depended upon in life. Today many handle the word fast and loose, and just downright sloppy. Satan is so clever that we cannot match wits with him, but we must simply depend on the word of God. When it comes to the finer points of doctrine or the "deep things of God" we can expect those who have a foundation on the basics to deal with them more accurately. When it comes to the gospel, we must be as accurate as possible and depend on the revelation provided us in the word. It is the responsibility of every member of the body of Christ to assimilate the gospel information and be a witness for Christ.

When we study the life of Christ, we find He was totally occupied with the word. He was accurate in His presentations and representations of the word. He was very careful to always say what He meant, often quoting the scripture verbatim. Often words change their meanings and we must be aware of the changes. For example, in our time the words "grace, faith, works, salvation and repentance" have different meanings for different people. We should not just use these words and expect everyone accepts the meanings we hold. It is not communication to just throw words out and hope there is understanding, but true communication is to convey thought of which words are vehicles. If we want to convey a certain thought, the words we use are important. We must be sure not to feed into the prejudices of our day. If you are saved, you should know how you were saved. You have a unique message, after all there is only "*a few who find it.*" When we become occupied with the word of God, our thoughts then become His thoughts.

When it comes to the gospel, Satan is at work to distort the plan of salvation. He attempts to twist, distort and hide the truth of the gospel, and at the same time push his perverted gospel, which preaches religion with its system of works. Satan can also use believers who are carnal or willfully immature to advance his purposes. The result is, if a person accepts Satan's gospel, they will reject the true Gospel, because they are mutually exclusive. When God gives us an opportunity to witness, when God wants to speak through us, can He? Have we allowed His thoughts to rule in our hearts so that when God strategically places us in position to be a witness, He can speak through us? Or, are we sloppy in our thinking, allowing human viewpoint and Satan's schemes to dilute our testimony for God.

If you are saved, the question of "why am I here?" is already answered for you. You may find that you don't like God's answer and would rather be occupied with your own thoughts and concerns. One thing you cannot change is *who* you are. Only God can change who you are. We were born into a conflict that rages on. We must understand this and live our lives according to the divine plan or be prisoners of war or casualties. Satan takes us captive through our thinking. God has given us something to think in terms of bible doctrine, but many have disregarded, neglected and even shown contempt for the word of God. The word speaks, but sometimes we do not listen. It is just like the platoon leader of a squadron shouting "move out!" and some retreat, some say they didn't understand; and some are just undecided about moving, they are not sure if it's a good idea. We become casualties when our lives here have become useless and worthless for the cause of God. Then, God in His own perfect timing brings us home through discipline.

This short discourse is a call to accuracy in the work of the gospel. Why do I write this? God has blessed and enlightened me to see the glorious gospel of Christ. It is the only power in this world unto salvation. I also see our enemy busy attacking this point with relentless vigor. What is our only answer? "*It is Written.*" Know the word, study the word, think about the word, and last, *live* the word. People all around us are perishing through unbelief; can God use us as a light in this dark place? At the center of the Gospel we see Jesus Christ, who He is, what He did, and what it means. This is so consuming to me that I get excited at the thought of sharing this eternal message. To think that God would use me, to think that He would allow me to share in the work of gospel is overwhelming at times for this is a matter of life and death! Are you accurate in your presentation of the gospel? Can you find it in the word?

This discourse is not to point out the particulars of the gospel and define it in detail, for that was done in other discourses. In the time in which we find ourselves, we need to speak in terms of specifics, not generalities. Our Lord spoke with authority, and that same authority is given to us. If you are not sure what to say when giving the gospel, please refer the person to someone who knows what to say. "*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*" (1Cor 15:58).

*Douglas E. Presley*

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