

“WELCOMED AS THE WORD OF GOD”

By Keith Greer

Paul, in his first letter to the church in Thessalonica, praises them for their acceptance of God's message.

"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

While studying this letter it struck me how wonderful it would be for all men to have this attitude. **What could make men have this kind of acceptance towards truth?**

Verse thirteen gives us some insight into the answer to this question. "... **welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God..** "

The key is in understanding where this word came from.

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. " (1 Corinthians 2: 12, 13) The mind of God has been revealed to men by the Holy Spirit.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, "that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3: 16,17) All scripture was "God breathed". This makes the message divine.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:20,21) This takes men completely out of the picture. Men were used as "messengers" to write down those things which God wanted man to know.

"... as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," (2 Peter 1:3) Peter tells us that God has given us "all things" which pertain to life and godliness. Nothing has been left out or forgotten. In a word, God covered all the needs of men's spiritual diet with the Bible.

Why must this point be understood by those we study with? If man can know, and they can, that God's word is from God and not from men, and if they choose to reject that word, they are rejecting God, not us!

How can men arrive at the conclusion that the Word is from God? Examine the evidence. Here are some for your consideration.

UNITY AND CONSISTENCY. Sixty-six books written over a 1600 year period by about forty writers. Perfect harmony! No contradictions!

ACCURACY. Science and the scriptures are in perfect harmony. Read (Isaiah 40:22; Psalms 8:6-8; Job 26:7). All known scientific facts are in complete agreement with the Bible.

INFLUENCE. What other book has ever been able to change one's life so drastically? It can make the vilest person a model of uprightness and a joy to be around. This power is the word of God! (Romans 1:16; James 1:21)

ALWAYS RELEVANT. "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." {John 6:63} No matter how long God may allow men to live on the earth and how different life here will become—God's word will always be the only book that answers the three questions of life, origin, purpose and destiny. Read it and see for yourself! ***