

GOD SPEAKS TO MAN

By Keith Greer

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; " {Hebrews 1: 1, 2} Whenever God (has spoken) to men, by whatever means, He spoke for one purpose, to be heard and obeyed!

Does man have a divine standard? Can he know what is expected from him by God? What if his standard is incorrect? Today, let us look at God's standards versus the false standards of men.

God's word does six vital things for man which false standards cannot.

FURNISHES US. "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, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature..." {2 Peter 1:3,4} God's word gives men all the things needful to please God and his fellow man.

PERFECTS US. "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." {Colossians 1:28} God's word has the ability to make us "complete, mature" in our service unto Him.

EDIFIES US. "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" {Acts 20:32} His word will "build us up" to grow and be more fruitful in the kingdom.

GUIDES US. "Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle." {Psalms 43:3} It leads us in the ways to walk the uneven pathways of life. God's word will always lead us in the right direction.

SAVES US. "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." {James 1:21} It is God's power to save men. The power to cut the heart is in the message, not the messenger!

JUDGES US. "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} Man can reject the counsel of God. But that same word will face him in judgment!

What about some false standards? Allow me to list a few.

FEELINGS. Ask Paul about those. Acts 26:9-11.

TRADITIONS. The Pharisees in Jesus' day held to these more than the law. Matthew 15:8,9.

MAN'S WISDOM. We have come a long way in many areas of life. Yet, can we outthink God? 1 Corinthians 1:21; 2:4,5.

POPULARITY. Can we base truth on how popular it is? Does the majority of the world determine what is right and wrong? Galatians 1: 10.

PARENT'S OPINIONS. Parents do the best they can to bring us up in the "nurture and admonition" of the Lord. Do we base our belief on what they say? Luke 14:26,27.

PREACHER'S OPINIONS. Do we just blindly follow what is taught in the pulpit? Do we examine the teaching in light of God's word? Do we believe it because the preacher does? 2 John 9-11

All of these "false standards" have a common thread, destruction to any who follow their perilous course. Do such courses have some "truth" mingle in with them? Yes, this is done to give them creditability. Truth is only 2% of rat poison is really poison. Yet, that 2% is enough to get the job done! How much error can cost one their soul? Much less than 2%! Which standard do you follow? ***