Power Of God’s Word: “Upholds All Things”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 29th, 2018

Text: Heb. 1:3

### Intro

1. The Scriptures “cannot be broken” *(Jn. 10:35),* and are complete! *(II Tim. 3:17; II Pet. 1:3)*
2. Men have the tendency to underestimate the power of God’s word.
   1. Naaman wanted a miracle instead of instructions from God’s prophet. *(II Kings 5)*
   2. The rich man wanted Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead so his brothers would repent. *(Lk. 16:27-31)*
   3. Many Jews of Jesus’ and Paul’s day wanted a sign *(John 4:48; I Cor. 1:22-24)*
3. Men are still minimizing the power and completeness of God’s word.
   1. Many teach a direct operation of the Holy Spirit in salvation apart from God’s word.
   2. Those who teach an “existential experience” do not respect the written word of God.
   3. Many seek to mold the word of God into their teachings and ideas (or reject it outright).
4. Don’t underestimate the power of God’s word!
   1. Heb. 1:3: Jesus “upholds all things by the word of His power.”
   2. Heb. 4:12: God’s word is more powerful & sharper than a two-edged sword, able to separate soul from spirit, and will judge the thought & intentions of the heart!
5. Men need to be constantly reminded of the power of God’s word!

#### Power of the Word of God

* 1. Spoken word of God – How powerful is it?
     1. So powerful that God spoke the world into existence!
        1. Heb. 11:3; *Ps. 33:9:* “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” *(Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11)*
        2. In Genesis 1 the phrase “God said” appears ten times.
        3. Whatever God said, happened!
        4. *Heb. 1:2; Col. 1:13-16; Jn. 1:3:* It was His Son “through whom also He made the world” *(Heb. 1:2).*
        5. The spoken word of God “created the heavens and the earth!”
     2. So powerful as to cause fear and awe and can keep one from sin & idolatry
        1. *Ex. 19-20:* God spoke His commands to the Israelites from Heaven so they would not sin, believe in Him, and believe in His servant Moses.
        2. Ex. 20:18-19: The people were frightened by the voice of God and the thunder, lightning, trumpet and smoking mountain and begged Moses to speak to them from God, but not God Himself!
        3. *Ex. 20:20-26:* Moses told them it was a test from God so they would not sin, and God told them He spoke to them from heaven so they would know He is their God and not commit idolatry!
  2. Written word of God – How powerful is it?
     1. It can withstand Satan!
        1. *Mt. 4:1-11:* It was so powerful that by quoting the written word, Jesus resisted the devil.
        2. Mt. 4:10-11: “Then the devil left Him.” The written word of God is so powerful it can withstand Satan!
        3. Satan can quote it, but when used properly he can’t stand against it! *(Know God’s word to “resist him, firm in your faith,” I Pet. 5:9).*
     2. It was powerful enough to prevent the rich man’s five brothers from going to the place of torment!
        1. *Lk. 16:19-31:* The rich man in torment sought to save his 5 brothers.
        2. *Lk. 16:27-31:* He wanted Lazarus to go back from the dead to warn his brothers to repent.
        3. Lk. 16:29, 31: Abraham said they have Moses and the Prophets, and if they don’t obey them (the written word) they won’t believe one who rises from the dead *(Jn. 11:45-46, 53; 12:9-11).*
        4. The written word of God can keep one from eternal torment!
  3. The word of God, both spoken and written, is powerful to create and save souls!

#### Power of the Word of Jesus

* 1. Spoken word of Jesus – How powerful is it?
     1. Powerful enough to sustain the universe and keep it operating!
        1. Heb. 1:3: Jesus “upholds all things by the word of His power.”
        2. Col. 1:16-17: “In Him all things hold together.” (Jn. 1:1-3)
     2. Powerful enough to heal immediately:
        1. *Luke 7:1-10*: The centurion’s servant was healed that very moment without Jesus seeing or touching him.
        2. *John 4:43-53:* The royal official’s son was healed from a distance of about 20 miles away!
     3. Powerful enough to control the weather:
        1. *Mk. 4:35-39:* It was the spoken word of Christ that calmed the sea.
        2. Mk. 4:41: His disciples were even more afraid and asked, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"
     4. Powerful enough to raise the dead:
        1. *Lk. 7:14:* Son of the widow of Nain: “Young man, I say to you, arise!”
        2. *Lk. 8:54:* Jairus’ daughter: “Child, arise!”
        3. *Jn. 11:43:* Lazarus: “Lazarus, come forth.”
        4. *Jn. 10:17-18 (Lk. 24:5-6):* Jesus said He would raise Himself & He did!
     5. Whether the universe, disease, the weather, freshly dead or buried for four days, they obeyed the voice of the Master!
  2. Written word of Jesus – How powerful is it?
     1. Jn. 20:30-31: The written record of Jesus was so powerful that John said one could have life by believing the written record of it! *(Jn. 3:16: Eternal Life)*
     2. The written word of Jesus is just as powerful as His spoken word (Jn. 1:1-3):
        1. Scriptures make no distinction in the power of the two.
        2. *Jn. 16:13:* It can lead one to know “all truth!” *(II Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17; Heb. 1:1-2: He is God’s last Spokesman)*
        3. *Eph. 3:4-7:* When read, the “mystery of Christ” can be understood!
        4. *Rom. 1:16:* The gospel is the written word and has the power to save!
        5. *Jn. 12:48; Rom. 2:16; I Pet. 1:22-25:* It is eternal and has the power to judge.
     3. We will be judged & held accountable to the words Christ spoke, and we wouldn’t know what they were unless they were written down.
  3. At Christ’s word all things were created *(Ps. 33:6, 9),* at His word all things are sustained *(Heb. 1:3),* & at His word all things will be burned *(I Thess. 4:16-18; II Pet. 3:10-12)!*

## Conclusion

1. There is no difference in the power of God’s spoken word and His written word!
2. *Lk. 16:29, 31:* The written word of God in Moses and the prophets could prevent the rich man’s brothers from torment, so can the written message of Christ prevent us from such a fate.
3. James 1:21: Put aside wickedness and in humility receive the word that can save your soul!
   1. Heb. 2:1-4: Men today have Christ and the apostles. What they said has already been written and confirmed! *Men must still be obedient to God’s word!*
4. How will you respond to the word of God? *(Obedience saves no matter what time-period!)*
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized!
6. If a Christian in error, remember the power of His word in your own life, and hold yourself to that standard. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!