



The tiniest Word of God

Look out your window. What do you see? You can see the heaven and the earth and all the innumerable features and creatures that God made. Nevertheless, the smallest word of God is more lasting and permanent than the whole physical universe out there. That is why true education consists in possessing the word of God, not in possessing the heaven and the earth.

Jesus said, “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.” (Luke 16: 16-17.) What did he say there? Did you get that? It is harder for a single “tittle” of God’s Law to disappear than the whole creation?? That is an astounding statement, and anyone who takes God’s word seriously must meditate upon its implications.

Does the way I live my life indicate that I value the Word of God more than the whole planet? Does my daily schedule indicate that I give that much importance to the Word of God? Am I seeking the Word of God, or am I seeking the earth and its contents? What do I desire for my children? What causes me anxiety? Am I worried by a lack of the Word of God in my life, or by a lack of money? Am I concerned about failing to maintain my purity of thought or failing to maintain my weight? Remember, when Jesus came to earth, he only brought one thing: the Word. He created no new technology. He revealed no new secrets of science and nature. He started no businesses. He used practically no money to help people. He wielded no weapons. He deposed no rulers. He formed no governments. Nothing of all that. He only spoke the Word. Then

he died on the cross, was resurrected the third day, instructed his disciples for several more weeks, and returned to heaven.

What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? He told them to do only one thing: to go into all the world and teach all nations to obey his Word.

Thus we see that Jesus' focus was entirely upon the Word of God and the benefit that this Word will bring to the lives of men. His word gives eternal life to those who receive it.

But today few, if any, believe this. We arm ourselves with every tool that we think we will need to possess our own little corner of real estate in this world, build a castle on it, and fill it with precious things. We send our children off to do the same. Then we all die, are buried, and leave the castle to others.

Excuse me, but isn't this the height of stupidity? Now that Jesus came and showed us a higher way, telling us to follow him, are we going to return to seeking real estate? Is that what Jesus did? Is that what Peter and Paul did? Is that what the gospel says to do? I remind you of Jesus' statement: that the tiniest word of God is more binding and permanent than the entire universe. If we are going to seek something, let us seek the Word of God. Let us seek it as if it were more valuable than choice silver and precious stones. Indeed it is.

For about three years we have been urging people to copy the Bible into notebooks, and to have their children do the same. The purpose of this exercise is to give the Word of God the attention that Jesus said it deserves. Of course it would be easier to buy a Bible in the store if the purpose of the Bible were to simply possess one. But that is not the purpose of the Bible.

The purpose of the Bible (in computer language) is to become the operating system of our mind. The purpose of the Bible (in construction language) is to become the foundation of our thinking. The purpose of the Bible (in navigational language) is to become our compass and beacon. The purpose of the Bible (in educational language) is to become our major. The purpose of the Bible (in political language) is to become our constitution and system of governing ourselves.

We stand at this juncture in history. Behind us are the cemeteries of past generations, full of dead men's bones. Before us approaches of the resurrection of the dead, when Christ will call forth all the dead from their graves, and all will be judged.

Of what importance then will our property be? Of what importance will our education and doctorate be? Of what importance will our earthly possessions be? The only thing that will be important in that day will be what we did with the tiniest word of God. Our life will be judged in accordance with what is written there. God will not pull out some mysterious and unknown set of laws by which to judge mankind.

You and I will be judged by what Jesus Christ told the apostles to preach in all the world. The sun, the moon, the galaxies, the mountains, the magnetic fields, the oceans, the fishes, and the animals will have nothing to do with the final judgment of God. What we did with them will not affect the outcome of the final reckoning. The only important thing will be the Word of God and our behavior in the light of it. Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12:48.) In that day many will say, "Lord, Lord, I believed in you." Then God will examine our deeds to see where we put the priority of our lives. If we gave more priority to something other than the Word of God, it will be a very poor showing.

The final judgment will not be a time for appeals and excuses. Our deeds are already being written in the books, or recorded on the videotapes, if you please. Our deeds and our words will declare without a shadow of a doubt whether we were obedient to the gospel or not.

So let us get busy with the task of educating ourselves in every word of God. Let us seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Let us show the way to our children. Let us show them what is really important. Heaven and earth are going to pass away, which means they are not really important. But the Word of God will never pass away. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matthew 24:35).

Art Dappen (1946-2006) was a leader in the homeschool movement in Mexico. He served for over 30 years as a missionary with his wife of 35 years, Linn. Art's ministry included the creation and free distribution of a Spanish reading program for homeschoolers. About two years before his home-going, he and Linn added seven Mexican orphans to their family, making them the parents of seventeen. Two married daughters in the U.S. have blessed them with 13 grandchildren (so far). Linn and the rest of the family continue to live and minister in Mexico.

Art received his high school education at an elite boarding school in Connecticut, and continued on to university. One day, as a new Christian in a graduate-level chemistry class, he came to a realization. As he studied the equations on the blackboard, the thought came to him: "Jesus Christ did not dedicate his life to what is written on that blackboard." He left school and purposed to serve the Lord.

A daughter said, "He always felt it was a privilege to throw it all away."

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