

Outline: God's Word, Bible Study & Convictions

I. Introduction

- **Series Title:** *Firm Foundations: Securing the Church in God's Word*
 - **Lesson Title:** *God's Word, Bible Study & Convictions*
 - **Key Passage:** *Mark 7:6-13 (KJV)*
 - Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for elevating traditions over God's Word.
 - **Key phrase (v. 9):** "Full well" – A condemnation of self-righteous piety.
 - The danger of prioritizing human traditions over biblical truth.
 - **Quote from Charles Spurgeon:** "The keeping of human commands always leads to the neglect of the divine."
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II. The Priority of God's Word

1. **Rejecting the Commandments of God in Favor of Man's Traditions**

- Local assemblies must be governed by God's Word, not human customs.
- The **importance of personal conviction** through deep study of Scripture.
- **Personal responsibility:** Research, examine the Scriptures, and establish personal convictions.

2. The Habit of Daily Bible Reading

- The necessity of **developing good habits** (daily Bible reading).
- **Time management:** *James 4:14 (KJV)* – Life is a vapor; use time wisely.
- The **shame of meeting God without having read His Word fully.**

III. Why Is God's Word So Important?

1. The Mind and Will of God

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)** – Scripture is inspired, profitable, and sufficient.
- **2 Peter 1:20-21 (KJV)** – Prophecy is divinely inspired, not man-made.

2. The Infallibility and Inerrancy of God's Word

- **Psalm 19:7 (KJV)** – The law of the Lord is perfect.
- **Proverbs 30:5-6 (KJV)** – Every word of God is pure; do not add to it.
- **Adam Clarke’s Commentary:** The inspiration of Scripture is without error.

3. The Completeness of Scripture

- **Revelation 22:18-19 (KJV)** – A solemn warning against altering God’s Word.
- **The King James Bible’s reliability** compared to modern translations.

4. The Authority and Finality of the Bible

- **Psalm 119:89 (KJV)** – God’s Word is settled in heaven.

5. The Sufficiency of Scripture

- **Psalm 19:7-9 (KJV)** – The perfection, surety, and completeness of God’s Word.
- **Transformation through Scripture** – salvation and sanctification.

6. The Power of God's Word to Fulfill Its Purpose

- **Isaiah 55:11 (KJV)** – God’s Word will accomplish what He intends.

- **Quote from Charles Spurgeon:** "We have no cunningly devised fable... but the infallible truth of God."
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IV. The Goal of Biblical Comprehension

1. The Need for Comprehensive Study

- Beyond topical studies, **book-by-book and verse-by-verse study** is crucial.
- **Psalm 119:160 (KJV)** – All of God's Word is true.
- **Quotes:**
 - **A.W. Tozer:** "Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian."
 - **William P. White:** "The Bible is a harp with a thousand strings."

2. The Importance of Studying Scripture in Church and at Home

- **2 Peter 1:20 (KJV)** – No prophecy is of private interpretation.
- **Hebrews 10:25 (KJV)** – Do not forsake assembling together.
- **The danger of isolated study** – susceptibility to false doctrines.

V. Basic Bible Study Tools

1. Selecting the Right Bible

- **The King James Version as the most reliable English Bible.**
- **Differences in verse layout vs. paragraph layout.**

2. Additional Study Aids

- **Dictionaries, maps, study Bibles** – tools for deeper understanding.
- **Consulting a pastor** for a good study Bible.

3. Bible Markup Tools

- **Colored pens, highlighters, notes in margins** to enhance study.

VI. Seeking a Biblical View Over a Traditional View

1. The Dangers of Prioritizing Tradition

- **Titus 1:9 (KJV)** – Sound doctrine should be the basis of belief.
- **Mark 7:8, 13 (KJV)** – Rejecting God's commandment for tradition.

- **Pharisaical error:** Holding to long-held traditions over biblical truth.

2. Finding a Biblical Position on Issues

- **Approach Scripture open-mindedly**
 - Avoid blind acceptance of traditional beliefs.
- **Examine all of Scripture on a subject**
 - **1 Corinthians 2:13 (KJV)** – Compare Scripture with Scripture.
- **Interpret Scripture in Context**
 - **Dr. C.I. Scofield's Rule:** "Never use a doubtful passage to contradict a clear one."

3. Commitment to Biblical Truth Over Human Opinion

- Seek truth based on **Scripture, not appearances.**
- **Acts 5:29 (KJV)** – "We ought to obey God rather than men."

VII. The Proper Response to God's Word

1. Believe It

- **John 6:68-69 (KJV)** – Peter’s confession of faith in Jesus' words.

2. Honor It

- **Job 23:12 (KJV)** – Treasuring God's Word more than food.

3. Love It

- **Psalms 119:97 (KJV)** – Loving and meditating on God’s law.

4. Obey It

- **1 John 2:5 (KJV)** – Keeping God’s Word as evidence of love.

5. Guard It

- **1 Timothy 6:20 (KJV)** – Guarding against false knowledge.

6. Fight for It

- **Jude 3 (KJV)** – Contend for the faith.

7. Study and Teach It

- **Ezra 7:10 (KJV)** – Preparing to seek, do, and teach God’s law.

VIII. Conclusion

1. The Reward of Studying God's Word

- **Psalm 1:1-3 (KJV)** – The blessed man delights in God's law.
- Avoiding the **shame of neglecting God's Word.**

2. Developing a Habit of Bible Study

- Make Bible reading **pleasurable and consistent.**
- Study **contextually, using reliable tools.**

3. The Word of God as the Source of Life

- It is **absolute truth, victory, spiritual growth, power, and guidance.**
- It **assures salvation and cleanses the soul.**

4. Final Call to Commitment

- **Are you neglecting God's Word?**
- **Will you recommit to making the Bible central in your life?**
- **Encouragement to witness and share God's Word.**