

The Place and Work of the Apostles
Lesson 4 – The Words Delivered to the Apostles
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Introduction: God has throughout time chosen to communicate in words.

- A. We live in a time where mainline denominations have lost “the battle for the Bible.” Most no longer accept the Bible as the perfect, inerrant word of God.
 - 1. When that is rejected then anything the Bible uniquely testifies to is likely to be questioned and rejected. Miracles are commonly rejected as *misunderstandings*.
 - 2. Those who take such a *low view of scripture* begin to see the Bible as a “story” and not containing commandments for every generation and culture.
- B. When we accept that Jesus is the Son of God by the evidence of His resurrection then there is a very *logical path all should follow*. (**Rom 1:3-4, 16-17**)
 - 1. Let us look carefully at God’s plan to deliver His will through the apostles.
 - 2. No one should reject Jesus as our Lord and savior. (**Lk 6:46**)

I. God’s plan was to deliver words by Jesus through the Holy Spirit to the apostles

- A. Jesus often spoke about words that were delivered to Him from the Father.
 - 1. Jesus would *only do* those things that He saw the Father do. Without instruction *He would do nothing!* (**Jn 5:19-20, 30**)
 - 2. Peter understood that he was to feed only on the words that were given to Jesus. (**Jn 6:63, 68**)
 - 3. Jesus wanted His followers to understand that the Father delivered his teaching to Jesus. He wanted others to test the source of doctrine! (**Jn 7:16-17**)
 - 4. Jesus respect for the delivered words of God would lead him *only to act* when the Father gives Him instruction. Jesus would give these same words to us! (**Jn 8:28-32**)
 - 5. The real test of loving Jesus is how we handle these words! (**Jn 14:21-24**)
- B. Jesus prepares His apostles to receive these words through a later work of the Holy Spirit. There were several things the Holy Spirit would do. (**Jn 14:24-26**)
 - 1. The Holy Spirit would give a perfect remembrance of what Jesus spoke to them.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit would teach them additional things from Jesus. (**Jn 16:12-15**)
 - 3. This message does not require ability, memory or study. (**Mt 10:19-20**)
 - 4. Please understand the sobering and powerful claims of inspiration!
 - 5. God gave signs to show the apostles were inspired of God. (**2 Cor 12:12**)

II. The Holy Spirit delivered these words “once for all”

- A. Anything that our God does is perfect for its purpose. (**2 Tim 3:16-17**)
 - 1. To say that a work is done by God is to admit that work is perfect!
 - 2. God delivered *words* to the apostles that were to be handled very differently than the words of men. These *words were holy!* (**1 Thess 2:13**)
 - 3. There were things that were inherently true about these *words because they came from God* and thus were holy! (**2 Sam 22:31**)

- B. There are perfect events that are “once for all” in that they will never be repeated or added to. (**Heb 9:26-28**)
1. Jesus will never need to be born of a woman again.
 2. Our physical death is a one-time event.
 3. Jesus will never have to die for our sins again!
- C. God’s message was completely delivered and need not be delivered again! (**Jude 3; Mt 24:35**)
1. We can understand that there are no modern day apostles or prophets.
 2. We are to only build upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets used in the writing of the New Testament. (**Acts 2:42; Eph 2:20**)
 3. God’s wrath is revealed against those who try to change His perfect, once for all delivered message. (**Gal 1:6-9; Rev 22:18-19**)

III. The words delivered to the apostles were for every culture and every generation

- A. Peter gave promises that would cover all generations. (**Acts 2:38-39**)
1. Geography and culture may change but God gave promises that could be understood and obeyed by all men! (**Acts 17:30-31**)
 2. The key was understanding when a man truly spoke from God. You did not need to have an understanding of the culture it was delivered to understand it!
- B. The message was carefully delivered by the apostles to all men. (**Eph 3:3-5; 5:17**)
1. It could be understood by the man who read it.
 2. This carefully delivered message would not be added to by Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Apostles as it was delivered! (**Gal 1:8**)
 3. God gave a “form of doctrine” through the Apostles that was for all who are baptized into Christ. (**Rom 6:17-18, Acts 2:38-39**)
 4. This word is called “the faith” and the “apostle’s doctrine.” (**Acts 6:7; Jude 3; Acts 2:42**)
 5. The promise of Jesus to deliver these words has been fulfilled. How will we respond? (**Jn 12:48-50**)

Questions

1. What conclusions should follow when we understand that Jesus was raised from the dead? What does it mean when say that Jesus is Lord?
2. Why did Jesus want everyone to know that he only taught the words delivered to Him from the Father? How does that example apply to us?
3. What did Jesus promise that the Holy Spirit would accomplish for the apostles?
4. When we admit that a message is from God then how would we handle that message compared to a message from a man?
5. Did the Holy Spirit completely accomplish this work? How can we know this?
6. What are the implications of those who say the Bible cannot be understood unless we have a full understanding of the culture in which it was delivered?
7. How can we know that we love Jesus?