

The Authority of the Word

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Timothy 3:1-5.

B. Paul moves from moral collapse to an adherence to the written Word of God.

II. The defense for the Christian in an age of moral decline is to know the Word of God.

A. No force will ever overthrow the Word of God—but the individual can fall away from it.

B. Four propositions for thinking about the Word of God today:

1. As Christians, we have no right to hold a different view of Scripture than Jesus held Himself.

a. We are inconsistent if we call Jesus Lord and disregard Him in certain areas.

b. Jesus said the Scriptures cannot be broken, and He uses them regularly as an authority.

2. As Christians, we have no right to views of Scripture different from the Apostles.

a. Paul received his message from Jesus.

b. The Apostles are conscious that their words are the Words of God. (II Thessalonians 2:13)

c. The Apostles regarded each other as inspired. (II Peter 3)

3. We must first believe what the Lord teaches before we can understand it.

a. This does not rule out textual criticism—we do not have the original manuscripts.

b. This does not mean that there are not difficulties, for which we do not have answers.

4. Scripture does not need to be defended; it merely needs to be declared.

a. The Word has in itself inherent authority.

b. If Scripture is from God, it will have power.

c. The exposition of the Bible is its authority.

C. Authority is either with Christ or with the critics.

D. Truth is always truth—it never changes.

1. A two-thousand year old book is just as relevant today.
2. Truth is the final measure of civilization and human life.

Application questions:

1. Why can we not separate holiness from a proper understanding of God's Word?

2. Which proposition is the most meaningful to you? Explain.

3. Memorize II Timothy 3:16 and write it below. What does this verse mean to you in light of the message?
