

Man Shall Not Live By Bread Alone...

Matt. 4:1-10

God's Word Is The Guide And Standard For Life

- In responding to the devil's temptations, Jesus responded with ***"It is written"*** (Matt. 4:4,7,10; cf. Deut. 8:3; 6:16; 6:13)
 - Jesus directed others to the word of God:
 - "What is written in the law? How readest thou? (Lk. 10:26)
 - "...have ye not read, that he which made them..." (Matt. 19:4)
 - "...ye do err, not knowing the scriptures..." (Matt. 22:29)
 - Jesus did not appeal to
 - Personal feelings. (Mk. 2:8; Prov. 14:12)
 - Religious authorities. (Matt. 16:5-12; Acts 17:11)
 - What the majority believed. (Matt. 7:13-14)

God's Word Is Absolutely Authoritative

- Man *shall* not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Matt. 4:4; cf. v. 10)
 - We must do what God's word instructs.
 - God's commands are not a matter of suggestion, good ideas, or pick and choose, but the expression of His authoritative will.
 - Jesus also said:
 - The scripture cannot be broken. (Jn. 10:35)
 - Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 5:19-20; 7:21; cf. Lk. 6:46)

The Word of God Is A Consistent Whole

- The devil responds with a quotation of scripture:
 - Ps. 91:11-12 → 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12 They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
- Jesus in his response makes the point that each passage of scripture must be taken in context: ***It is written again.*** The Bible not only contains Ps. 91:11-12, but also Dt. 6:16...
 - Dt. 6:16 → Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted *him* in Massah....
 - Scripture is consistent. (Jn. 17:17)
 - Scripture must not be isolated or allegedly arrayed against itself.
 - Jn. 3:16; Rom. 3:28 ----- Gal. 3:26-27
 - Jn. 6:47 ----- Heb. 3:12

The Word of God Is Understandable

- Not only did Jesus understand the word of God, but His statements make clear that he knew that others could as well.
 - To live by every word of God (Matt. 4:4), one must be able to understand it.
 - Jesus also reflected the understandable nature of the word of God in His questions to the lawyer of Lk. 10.
 - (cf. vv. 25-26) “What is written in the law? How readest (How do you understand it ? - NET)
 - Jesus approved his understanding of the word. (v. 28)
 - Eph. 5:17 → Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. (cf. Eph. 3:3-5)

The Word of God Is For Application

- Jesus, in his final response to the devil, who offers him the “crown without the cross” (Matt. 4:8-9), tells him that it would be in violation of God’s purpose of living according to His word.
 - Matt. 4:10 → “...for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
 - Taken with Matt. 4:4, the purpose of the word of God is for the practice of it, not speculation about it.
 - Dt. 29:29 → The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. (cf. Lk. 10:28)