

“The Divinity of God’s Revelation”
The Revelation of God - Week 2 - Summer 2019

- Intro:

- Review of Week 1 - The Grace of God’s Revelation
 - ▶ God’s Revelation is His willingness to disclose Himself to us.
 - ▶ That self-disclosure is inherent to our Lord’s Triune Being.
 - ❖ This truth is a foundation of God’s reliable self disclosure to His *creation*.
 - ❖ We talked about how the Son is the specific Revelation of the Father, eternally.

Matthew 11:27 - “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”
 - ▶ Though it’s in God’s nature to reveal Himself, God is under no obligation to disclose Himself to His creatures.
 - ❖ This is even more so *after* mankind fell into sin.
 - ❖ Our Lord’s willingness to continue to disclose Himself to us is a gift of pure grace.
 - ▶ There are two main categories of God’s disclosure to us.
 - ❖ General Revelation
 - Creation itself reveals God to us.
 - Sin, however, twists our gleanings from it.
 - Thus, our need for the other kind of Revelation...
 - ❖ Special Revelation
 - God’s direct words given to us through various mediums.
 - Culminating in the written Scriptures themselves.

- The Divinity of God's Revelation

- Disclaimer
 - ▶ Our physical/digital copies of scripture are not somehow divine.
 - ▶ Rather, the words communicated by our physical/digital copies are in a very true sense Divine.
 - ❖ God is His Word, and His word is God.
 - ❖ His Word is Divinely Personal...
- Biblical Passages ascribe Divine attributes (things uniquely God's) to God's Word.
 - ▶ Eternality:

Psalm 119:89 - Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Psalm 119:160 - All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.
 - ▶ Omnipotence:

Isaiah 55:11 - So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 - ▶ Perfection:

Psalm 19:7 - The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.
- Biblical passages also ascribe abilities to the Word which are uniquely Divine:

Hebrews 4:12-13 - ¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

- Other passages show believers responding to God's Word the way they would to God Himself:

***Psalm 119:162** - I rejoice at Your word, As one who finds great spoil.*

***Psalm 56:3-4** - ³ When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. ⁴ In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?*

***Psalm 138:2** - I will bow down toward Your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.*

***Isaiah 66:5a** - Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His word...*

- ▶ In these verses we hear the Word rejoiced in, trusted in, being given thanks, and trembled at...
- ▶ All of these are worshipful responses reserved for God...
- Summary so far...
 - ▶ We've reached a potentially surprising conclusion...
 - ❖ The Word of God has Divine Attributes...
 - ❖ The Word of God has Divine Ability...
 - ❖ The Word of God is to be Worshipped...
 - ▶ Yet in the OT in particular, all such language is reserved for God alone.
 - ▶ But what's also revealed is that the Word is God and God is His Word.
- The glorious revelation of God's Personal Word...

***John 1:1-3** - ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

- ▶ Before creation, the Divine Word was...
 - ❖ The Word was distinguishable from God.
 - ❖ Yet the Word was also God.

- ❖ Everything that has been made was made through this Word.
- ▶ Think back to Genesis 1 “And God said...let there...”
 - ❖ The Creative Word that came from God and brought reality into existence was itself Divine.
 - ❖ And as John tells us, that Creative Word was a Person.
 - ❖ That Person still upholds Creation as the Word.
Hebrews 1:3 - And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.
- ▶ As John goes on to tell us, the Word became flesh.
 - ❖ We know Him as Jesus.
 - ❖ We know Him as the Eternal Son of God the Father.
 - ❖ He is the Eternal, Living, Personal Word of God.
 - ❖ He is the Eternal, Divine, Self-Expression of God the Father.
- ▶ No wonder the scripture speaks of God’s Word the way it does...
 - ❖ As having divine attributes, abilities, and worthy of worship...
 - ❖ God’s Word *is* the Eternal Son.
 - ❖ To encounter God’s Word, therefore, is to Encounter Jesus.
 - The One with all divine attributes...
 - The One with all divine ability...
 - The One worthy of our worship...

- Implications and Applications

- The Word of God in our Bibles is Divine because it is to be received as the very presence of Jesus.
- Because that’s true, we are not to stand over the Word as its judge or critic.

- ▶ To submit the word of God to human evaluation is submitting Jesus to human evaluation.
- ▶ In fact, we are subject to His, every time we encounter Him in the Words of Scripture:

Hebrews 4:12–13 - ¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.
- ▶ Related to this point, to say the words of Scripture lack authority or contain error is to say that Jesus lacks authority and can error.
- To neglect the Word of God is to neglect Jesus.
 - ▶ Yet how many of us *neglect* God's word...
 - ❖ Failing to spend much time reading it, studying it, meditating on it, and applying it...
 - ❖ Now matter how much attention we think we give to our Lord, to neglect His Word is to neglect Him.
 - ▶ Every appointment we have with the Word of God is an appointment with Jesus. So ask yourself...
 - ❖ How would that change our reading/studying/hearing of the word if we believed that?
 - ❖ How much would you avoid distractions?
 - ❖ How faithful would you be to show up to worship or Sunday school, expectantly?
 - ❖ How quickly would we forget about our own issues for the moment and focus only on hearing and encountering Him.