

My Word Has No Place in You

Introduction

John 8:21-37

1. Jesus was speaking to the Jews - His very own race of people.
 - A. These people, who should have been among the very first people to accept Him were instead the first to reject Him.
2. Though they were the favored ones, the ones in which the good news first appeared, they had no place for His Word.

John 1:11-12 He came to His own, and **His own did not receive Him**. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but **since you reject it**, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

- A. The Jews were people that were rooted and grounded in traditions, pride and prejudice and as a result would not receive the word of Jesus.
3. But you know what? This is not unlike many people of today.
 - A. Many have their hearts so filled with prejudice and opinion that they will not give place to Christ's Word!

Why Should it Have a Place?

1. Because of Jesus' authority.

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

2. We are commanded to hear Jesus.

Matt 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"

Acts 3:22-23 "For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. **Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.** 'And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

3. Peter knew that there was no where else to turn. He had the right idea.

John 6:68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

4. The Words of Jesus are life.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

- A. We have a choice as did the Jews. We can listen to the words of Jesus and be saved.

James 1:18-21

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

- 1) Or we can choose to reject the words of Jesus and suffer the eternal consequences of death.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

5. In the end everyone of us will be judged by the Words in which Jesus has given us in the Bible.

John 12:48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

What Place Should the Word Have?

1. It should first possess an inside place within our heart, a permanent dwelling within us.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

The Sower:

Luke 8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

2. It should possess a place of reverence and respect.

Prov 13:13 He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.

Luke 11:28 blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!

3. Christ's Word should possess a place of love.

Ps 119:97 Oh, how I love Your law! **It is my meditation all the day.**

II Th 2:10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

4. It should possess a place of authority.

A. Christ's law is the authoritative law in religious doctrine and practice.

Matt 15:9 And in vain they worship Me, **teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**

Why Does Christ's Word Not Have a Place?

1. The Word of our Lord should have a place in all hearts. But like the Jews, many reject Christ's word because their life is filled with other things.

A. Worldly Pleasure (2 Tim 3:1-5)

I Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.** For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

B. Desire for Evil gain.

Matt 13:22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and **the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word**, and he becomes unfruitful.

C. Sin in all its various forms.

2 Peter 2:9-15

2. Before the Word of Christ can dwell within our hearts we must first cleanse the mind of evil and be determined to follow Christ.

Matt 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

What Is the Condition of Those That Reject?

1. To the Christian, it involves and places one deeper in sin.

James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

2. One may become so hardened that they will no longer seek a place in their mind for Christ's Words.

- A. They will reject for so long that they will never come to repentance.

Heb 3:8-9 **Do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years.

Heb 3:15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion."

- B. Also they will turn away from the Word.
2 Timothy 4:1-4

Heb 3:12-14 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God**; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

Christ's Word to Us Today:

1. There are three classes of people in the audience here this morning. You are either an alien sinner (never yet accepted Christ), an erring child of God, or a faithful Christian.
2. As Christ spoke to the Jews, He speaks to us today. Examine yourself now and see if you have a place for Christ's Word.

A. Alien Sinner

John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

B. Erring

I Jn 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Acts 8:22 **Repent therefore of this your wickedness**, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

C. Faithful Christian

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

2 Pet 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Rev 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Conclusion

1. Why not examine your heart closely this morning and make sure you are giving place for Christ's Word.
2. Will you be determined to do so this very moment?

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Invitation

Place _____	Date _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

My Word Has No Place In You.wpd
Richard Thetford, December 1996 - Re-accomplished June 2008 (Based on a sermon by Frank Thompson)