

“The Word of the LORD”
Deuteronomy 5:4-5
(Preached at Trinity, August 25, 2024)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citation will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Deuteronomy contains three sermons preached by Moses at the end of his life just prior to Israel entering the Promised Land under the command of Joshua. Moses is preaching on the Law received on Mount Sinai. It is a renewal of the Sinai Covenant. If they were to be successful in their new home it was essential that they hear and heed God's Word.
2. Most of the people who were present when the Law was originally given on Mount Sinai were no longer alive. Those present before Moses may not have been present at Sinai when the Law was originally given, but his in no way lessens their duty to God's commands.

Deuteronomy 4:44-45 NAU - "Now this is the law which Moses set before the sons of Israel; ⁴⁵ these are the testimonies and the statutes and the ordinances which Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, when they came out from Egypt,"

3. As we enter **Chapter 5** Moses begins his second sermon. He republishes the Ten Commandments. This will then be followed by other laws that would govern Israel's conduct and worship as they entered into Canaan. We must not fail to take notice of the source of Moses' authority.

Deuteronomy 5:4-5 NAU - "The LORD spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, ⁵ *while* I was standing between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD"

4. The words which Moses was speaking before Israel were not his words. They were the word of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 1:3 NAU - "In the fortieth year, on the first *day* of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the children of Israel, according to all that the LORD had commanded him *to give* to them."

5. If Moses was merely speaking his own words they would only be binding as long as Moses had the ability to enforce them. But if they were from God they would need to be obeyed absolutely and perpetually. These words were from God. They were by the authority of God.
6. This has always been the question of man, "By what authority?" This is the problem we see today. "People don't recognize the authority of God." There is no morality today because there is no standard. Without God the only standard is what a person determines for himself.

The chief priests and elders challenged Jesus with this question:

Matthew 21:23 NAU - "When He entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?"

7. Moses answers this question clearly in **Verse 5**.
Deuteronomy 5:4-5 NAU - "The LORD spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, ⁵ *while* I was standing between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD"
8. God thunders this to us over and over in Scripture.
 "Thus says the Lord" appears 417 times in the OT
 "The word of the Lord" appears 255 times
 "The LORD has spoken" appears 30 times.
9. This has some important implications for us.
 What is meant by the phrase, "The Word of the LORD?"
 Quite simply, it speaks to authority. God's authority.
- I. First, it speaks of the Authority of the Law – God was speaking
- A. God was handing down His commandments by His infinite authority.
1. God has absolute dominion over His creation.
 2. God has the right to give commands.
 - a. God demonstrated this right from the very beginning. He spoke and all things came into being.
Genesis 1:3 – "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
 There wasn't any hesitation. God spoke and it happened.
 - b. We can also see this Divine authority as God related to man in the Garden.
Genesis 2:15-17 NAU - "Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. ¹⁶ The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."
- B. God's Law is called the Ten Commandments, not suggestions.
1. Many people approach these Commands as being optional or open to our discretion.
 2. Some hold to situational ethics. They believe in the Ten Commandments generally, but they believe there are times when we are permitted to set them aside. In other words, they believe we are allowed to decide the conditions upon which we will obey. Sex out of wedlock is permissible in some circumstances. Lying is permissible at times. What counts is our good intentions.
 3. Most people just dismiss the Law of God. They deny its authority over them. They don't give it any serious contemplation – to their own peril.
Romans 1:18 NAU - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,"
- C. These Ten Commandments are universal in scope.
1. They are binding upon all men and all men will be judged by them.
 - a. God alone has this kind of authority.
 - b. No creature has the authority to give laws that are universally binding upon all men.

- c. Only God can give laws that are all encompassing over every area of life – they control our thoughts, actions, desires, emotions – everything.
2. They are universal in their demand.
God demands absolute obedience.
Deuteronomy 4:2 NAU - "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."
James 2:10 NAU - "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all."
3. God's demands must be taught with authority
1 Timothy 4:11 These things command and teach.

II. Second, it speaks of the authority of God's written Word – the Bible.

- A. God has been pleased to reveal Himself to man.
 1. God has spoken and then He has preserved it for us in written form.
 2. The expression "Word of the LORD" in **Verse 5** is synonymous with the Bible – the fullness of God's Word. We can see this in the New Testament.
Acts 13:48-49 NAU - "When the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region."
2 Thessalonians 3:1 NAU - "Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you"
 3. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus appealed to the Word of the Lord revealed in the Book of Deuteronomy – Chapter 8.
Matthew 4:4 NAU - "But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"
- B. God's Word is absolute
Isaiah 46:11 – “. . . yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it.

 1. God's Word is driven by His infinite power
Psalms 62:11 – “God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power *belongeth* unto God.”
 2. God's Word is absolute because He has the authority to impose it and the power to enforce it.
 3. God is subject to none, receives counsel from none – He works all things according to the counsel of His own will.
Ephesians 1:11 NAU - "also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,"
** He isn't *trying* to accomplish His will – He *IS* accomplishing His will.

- C. God has been pleased to record His Word in Written form.
 1. The word scripture or scriptures appears over 50 times in the NT. Literally The Writing.

2. When we read from these pages, we must receive every word as coming with absolute authority.
 - a. Far too many people find it too easy to dismiss the Word of God.
 - b. God's Word must be obeyed
- III. Third, it speaks of the authority of Christ.
- A. How can we say this? How can this be the meaning of Moses' words? Because all of Scripture points to Christ.
Luke 24:25-27 NAU - "And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."
John 5:39 NAU - "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;"
 - B. God's ultimate revelation of Himself is through the Lord Jesus Christ
Hebrews 1:1-3 NAU - "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 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. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"
 1. The eternal God *spoke* from heaven. The eternal Son *came* from heaven. The eternal Word became flesh.
John 1:14 NAU - "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
 2. We have not been left without a word from heaven
 Jesus us our great Prophet.
 Westminster Catechism
Q. 43. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?
 A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in his revealing to the church, in all ages, by his Spirit and Word, in divers ways of administration, the whole will of God, in all things concerning their edification and salvation.
 - C. Jesus Christ is our ultimate authority
 1. Jesus lays claim to all authority
Matthew 28:18 NAU - "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
 2. The Father affirmed His Son at the Transfiguration.
Matthew 17:5 NAU - "While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" KJV: "hear ye him."
Matthew 24:35 NAU - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

- D. So what are the implications for us if Christ holds all authority and the Bible is His Word?
1. If the Bible is the word of Christ it is as if He is standing before us speaking. It is our word from heaven.
“When the Word of God is rightly preached, it is Christ preaching.”
 2. If the Bible is the word of Christ then it speaks with absolute authority. Christ does not make suggestions. He speaks with authority.
 3. If the Bible is not the word of Christ, then what is the basis by which He is ruling His Kingdom? How is He governing His church? By what rule?
 4. The Bible is the rule, the only standard. There is no higher court, no greater place of appeal.
 5. If we have a clear word from heaven then should we not conduct our lives accordingly?
- E. The Bible is our final authority.
1689 London Baptist Confession, Chapter 1, Article 10
“The supreme judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit, into which Scripture so delivered, our faith is finally resolved.”
1. All of our social, ethical, and ecclesiastical controversies can be answered in this book – evolution, homosexuality, gender confusion, abortion, women in ministry – the answers are in this Book.
 2. Answers in how to have a strong marriage, how to raise your family, how to conduct yourself in the work place, how to be the church – all found in this Book.

Conclusion:

1. Our greatest problem is we do not want to live by the Words of Christ. We reject His authority.
Mark 8:38 NAU - "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."
John 14:23 NAU - "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."
2. Moses is making it clear, this is the Word of the Lord and it must be obeyed. And this was the first message to Joshua when they entered Canaan.
Joshua 1:8 NAU - "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."
3. If this is the Word of God, it can be trusted. All of God’s promises are sure and absolute. If God says those who trust His Son and follow Him have eternal life it can be believed with certainty.