SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Word of God

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Peter 1:23-25

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) As Christians, God has put us into His kingdom.
   i) He has given us back the dominion that Adam lost.
   ii) He wants us to have authority in life.
      (1) We're not to be slaves of the world, the flesh and the devil.
      (2) We're not to be victims but victors.

b) We are to be reigning in this life in authority, but in order to have authority, we must submit ourselves to authority.
   i) We can never be over those things that God wants us to be over until we are under those things that He has set over us.
      (1) We must be under in order to be over.
   ii) God does not give His authority to rebels.
      (1) If we have a rebellious spirit and rebel against the authority that God has set over us, then God will not give kingdom authority to us.
   c) Today's message will focus on the authority of the Word of the Lord.
      i) When the King is supreme, then His Word is supreme.
      ii) The Word of the King is the Word of God, the Bible.

d) 1 Peter 1:23-25

e) There are some who despise the Bible.
   i) They hate Christ, the Bible, churches, and they hate Christians.

f) There are those who deny the Bible.
   i) They don't accept it as the Word of God.

g) There are those who distort the Bible.
   i) They claim to believe it, but they twist it and lead others astray.

h) There are those who dissect Bible.
   i) Rather than reading the Bible as a love story, they read it as a math book.
      (1) They don't understand the message of the Bible, though they call themselves theologians.

i) There are those who disregard the Bible.
   i) This is the crowd from which the greatest danger comes.
   ii) They claim to believe the Bible, but they know very little about it.
      (1) Many who have been Christians for years have not read all of the Bible.
      (2) They have done little to understand God's Word.
         (a) Many people spend more time reading the news (which they say they don't believe) than they do reading the Bible (which they say they do believe).

j) The Bible is the Word of the King, and we learn how to have authority when we get under the authority of the Word of God.

2) THE BIBLE IS GOD'S INCONTESTABLE WORD (1 PETER 1:23)

a) There is no contest or debate; the Bible is what it says it is, and that is the Word of God.

b) 1 Peter 1:23

c) God's favorite expression for the Bible is “the Word of God.”
i) 1 Peter 1:23
ii) Acts 4:31
iii) Romans 10:17
iv) Ephesians 6:17
v) Hebrews 4:12
vi) 1 Thessalonians 2:13
vii) Over 500 times in the first five books of the Old Testament, the Bible is called the Word of God or something similar.
viii) Over 1,000 times in the books of the prophets, it says that Bible is the Word of God.
ix) Over 4,000 times in the Old Testament, the equivalent of “the Word of God” is used.
x) Forty-four times in the New Testament, it is called the Word of God.
d) When the Bible speaks, God speaks.
i) Since God is speaking through the Bible, the Bible must be perfect.
ii) 2 Timothy 3:16
   (1) A God of truth could not inspire error.
e) Proverbs 30:5
f) Matthew 4:4
g) The Bible was given by God.
i) He used human penmen.
   (1) Their ideas, their expressions and their personalities are all reflected in the Bible.
   (2) But these men were moved by the Holy Ghost.
      (a) 2 Peter 1:21
h) God gave the same title to Jesus that He gave to the Bible.
i) God calls the Bible “the Word of God.”
   (1) 1 Peter 1:23
ii) God calls His Son “The Word of God.”
   (1) Revelation 19:13
iii) Jesus and the Bible are not identical, but they are inseparable.
    (1) You cannot separate the Word of the Lord from the Lord of that Word.
j) There are similarities between Jesus and the Bible.
i) Both have come from God.
   (1) The Scriptures have come from God.
   (2) God sent forth His Son.
      (a) Galatians 4:4
ii) Both will endure forever.
   (1) The Scriptures will last forever.
      (a) 1 Peter 1:25
   (2) Jesus endures forever.
      (a) Revelation 1:18
iii) Both are unchanging.
    (1) Matthew 5:18
(2) Hebrews 13:8
iv) Both Jesus and the Bible are lights in a dark world.
   (1) John 8:12
   (2) Psalm 119:105
v) Both are truth.
   (1) John 17:17
   (2) John 14:6
vi) If you believe in Jesus, then you have to believe in the Bible.
   (1) If you believe in the Bible, then you have to believe in Jesus.

j) The incontestable Word of God has incredible power.
i) Hebrews 4:12
   (1) The word “quick” is a translation of the word from which we get the word “zoology” or “zoo.”
   (a) It means “alive;” it has life.
   (2) The word “powerful” in the Greek means “it pulsates, it throbs with power.”
ii) The Bible is not like any other book.
   (1) You read other books, but the Bible reads you.
   (2) It has life and power.

3) THE BIBLE IS THE INCORRUPTIBLE WORD OF GOD (1 PETER 1:23)
a) 1 Peter 1:23
   i) It is incorruptible because it has no taint nor blemish of any corruption upon it, and it will remain that way.
b) There is nothing men can do to add any corruption to the Word of God.
i) Someone once said that one way he knows that the Bible is the Word of God is because it has stood up under so much shoddy preaching.
   (1) Any other book would have been corrupted, but the Bible stands pure.
ii) Atheists have railed against the Bible.
iii) Cynics and agnostics have dismissed it.
iv) Liberals have tried to remove its miracles.
v) Materialists have ignored it.
vi) Radicals and false cults have twisted it.
   (1) Yet, the Bible is the incorruptible Word of God.

4) THE BIBLE IS THE INDESTRUCTIBLE WORD OF GOD (1 PETER 1:23–25)
a) 1 Peter 1:23, 25
   i) The Bible endures forever.
   (1) It is not the book of the month; it is the book of the ages.
b) The Bible was written over a 1,500-year period.
i) The writers span some thirty generations of world history.
ii) The writers died approximately 2,000 to 3,000 years ago; yet, today, it’s the most widely circulated book in the world.
c) Century after century, men have tried to bury it or burn it.
i) The kings of the Earth have set themselves against it.
ii) Even today's public schools in America seem to be against it.
iii) Yet, the Bible still stands.
   (1) In the year 303 A.D., the Roman emperor Diocletian hated the Bible and declared war against it.
      (a) Bibles were confiscated and destroyed.
      (b) Christians who named the name of Jesus were put to death.
   (2) Yet, in 325 A.D., Constantine enthroned the Bible as the infallible judge of truth in the first general church council.
   d) In spite of the rantings and ravings of the naysayers, the Bible cannot fade nor decay.

5) THE BIBLE IS THE INDISPENSABLE WORD OF GOD (1 PETER 1:25)
   a) 1 Peter 1:25
      i) No Bible, no church.
      ii) No Bible, no Christianity.
   b) The Bible, the King's Word, provides the church's message.
      i) The church's message is the Gospel.
         (1) 1 Corinthians 2:2
      ii) The Gospel is that Christ died for our sins, was buried and raised again on the third day.
         (1) We don't need a new and modern gospel for a new and modern age.
      iii) Don't think that the Gospel is found only in the New Testament.
         (1) It is found in the first pages of Genesis and goes all the way through the Bible.
      iv) The Bible teaches us that Jesus saves.
         (1) The Bible has one villain, and that is the devil.
         (2) It has one hero, and that is Jesus.
         (3) It has one message: Jesus saves.
   c) The Bible prescribes the method.
      i) The message and the method are tied together.
      ii) 1 Peter 1:25
         (1) The method is preaching.
      iii) God's plan for the church is for the Gospel to be preached.
      iv) 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21
   v) The church's method is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
      (1) It may be preaching from a pulpit.
      (2) It may be preaching in a Bible study.
      (3) It may be going door-to-door.
   d) The Bible produces the church's members.
      i) 1 Peter 1:23
         (1) The Bible is seed that is alive.
         (2) When you put a seed in the ground, it brings forth life that corresponds to the life that was put in that ground.
ii) The Bible teaches a regenerate church membership.
   (1) Those who are members of the church are not members simply because their parents were members.
      (a) They must be born again.
   (2) John 3:3-7
   (3) Those who are only born once will die twice.
      (a) The first death is the physical death.
      (b) The second death is eternal death in the lake of fire.
   (4) Those who are born twice will only die once.
      (a) Your physical body may die, but your spirit will be with the Lord in glory.
         (i) You can only die physically.
      (b) Matthew 10:28
   (5) We are born again by the incorruptible Word of God.
      (a) 1 Peter 1:23
      (b) People’s lives are radically and eternally changed by the Word of God.
   (6) John 6:63
   (7) Philippians 2:16
      (a) The Apostle Paul described his preaching as holding forth the Word of life.

6) CONCLUSION
   a) When we get under the Word, we have incredible authority.
      i) Hebrews 4:12
      ii) Jeremiah 5:14
      iii) Jeremiah 23:29
   b) The Word of God is the authoritative basis of our faith.
      i) 1 Peter 1:25
   c) Don’t apologize for the Bible, but preach the Bible; and it will rip through the devil’s lies.
      i) There is power in the Word of God.
   d) Satan does not want us to understand the authority of the Word of God.
      i) When Satan came against Jesus in the wilderness and tried to get Jesus to sin, what did Jesus do?
         (1) Jesus did not come against Satan with emotion.
         (2) Jesus did not come against Satan with reason.
         (3) Jesus did not come against Satan with threats.
         (4) Jesus took the Word of God and said, “It is written.”
         (5) Matthew 4:1-11
      ii) When the Word of the Lord and the Lord of the Word become our authority and we stand on the Word of God, then Satan will flee.
   e) How do you know that you’re saved and going to Heaven?
      i) Acts 16:31
ii) Stand on His Word.

f) If you want kingdom authority, then you must be under those authorities that God has put over you.
   i) First is the Lord of the Word.
   ii) Second is the Word of the Lord.

g) Are you under the authority of the Lord and His Word?

h) Have you surrendered your life to the Lord Jesus Christ?

i) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

j) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
   i) Romans 3:23
   ii) Romans 10:9-10
   iii) Romans 10:13
   iv) John 3:16