

# **THE WORD OF LIFE**

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## ***STUDY ONE***

### **CHRIST THE TRUE WORD**

#### **1. Introduction: the Word of Life (I John 1:4).**

The Word which was life is the Word who gives life.  
Cf. John 10: 10, John 1:4, Acts 5: 19-21.

#### **2. He is the Creative Word.**

The Father is the Initiator of creation, and the Son its Mediator.  
Genesis 1:3, cf. Psalm 33:6-9, 148:5-6. Also John 1: 1-4, Colossians  
1: 16, I Corinthians 8: 6, Hebrews 1: 1-2. The creative power of the  
word is unchanging. Isaiah 55: 10f.

#### **3. He is the Sustaining, Providential Word.**

Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2-3.

#### **4. He is the Word within the OT.**

I Peter 1: 10-12, I Corinthians 10:1f, (Isaiah 6:9-10 cf. John 12:40-  
41).

#### **5. He is the Creative, Sustaining, Life-giving Word Become Flesh.**

John 1: 14, I John 1: 1-4, cf. Romans 8:3, Hebrews 2:14, John 6:63,  
10:10.

#### **6. He is the Word which the Father is Speaking.**

Acts 10:36-43, John 7:16, 8:28, 14:10, Hebrews  
1:1-2, II Corinthians 4:6. The Father commands us to hear him,  
Matthew 17:5.

**7. He is the Only Saving Word.**

- (i) The 'word of Christ' is that which saves. Romans 10:17 (*rhema*, 'utterance').
- (ii) The 'word of Christ' is 'the word of God'. Cf. Ephesians 1: 13. 'Word of God' in Acts, Revelation 19: 13.
- (iii) He is the 'irresistible Word'. Revelation 1: 16, 2: 12, 19: 15.

**8. Conclusion.**

The Logos (Christ) is the only true Word. That is why we should hear him, obey him, and receive him as the saving word. Romans 10: 5-10. The word of Christ should thus dwell in our hearts (Colossians 3: 16).

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What do we understand generally by 'a word' and 'words'? In what sense can they be called 'powerful'? How do the ideas we have about 'word' and 'words' relate to the Son who is called 'the Logos'?
2. What do we mean by the verse of Hebrews 11:3? How does this fit with Colossians 1: 16, John 1: 1-4, and Hebrews 1:2? How do our ideas of the Logos fit with Isaiah 55:10ff?
3. Examine some of the commands of Jesus in the Gospels and see what results they bring. How would such results compare with the creative principles we have discussed above? What do you make of the statements, 'But say the word and my servant shall be healed'. and 'Stretch forth thy hand' (Luke 7: 7, 6: 10) ?
4. In what sense is the word of the Son (and the Word who is the Son) the word of the Father?

5. What connection is there between (a) the creative word, (b) the sustaining word, (c) the word of Christ in the prophets, (d) the word incarnate come flesh, (e) the word in ministry, and (f) the word which saves? Are they all the one word, and if so, why ?

6. In what sense is the word immediately available to us as Paul seems to suggest in Romans 10:5-10?

## ***STUDY TWO***

### **CHRIST THE WORD OF LIFE**

#### **1. Introduction: Statements that He is the Word of Life.**

I John 1:1-2, John 1:4, 6:63, 10:10, cf. Acts 5:20, I John 5: 12, cf. I John 4: 10.

#### **2. The Word Concerning Death.**

Genesis 2: 17, 3: 1-6. The devil is a liar from the beginning and also a murderer. Cf. John 8: 44f. Ephesians 3: 1-3. Hebrews 6: 1, 9: 14. Satan comes to bring death, John 10:10ff. He manipulates man by fear of death, Hebrews 2:14-15, cf. I John 4:16-18.

Man's death to God. Genesis 3: 1-6, Romans 5: 12-21, cf. II Corinthians 5:14-15. In this latter verse we see man, through Christ's death, 'die to himself and come alive to God', thus reversing the process at the Fall.

#### **3. The Nature of Man in Death.**

(i) Gen. 3:6-24. (ii) Rom. 1:18-32. (iii) Rom. 5:12-21.

Man created to be a son, a subject and a creature, but refuses to live to God and has denied his true identity. Hence he is 'lost' and 'dead', as was the prodigal son. Jeremiah 10:23 says the way of a man is not in himself; he cannot direct his own footsteps. He suffers because he has slipped his mooring, is adrift in the creation, both in time and eternity.

Whilst the law was intended to be a way of life (Lev. 18: 5), it has become a curse to him (Galatians 3: 10-13, cf. Psalm 143:2, 130:3, Galatians 2: 16ff, Deut. 27). It

is in fact death dealing to man (II Corinthians 3:6, etc).

Man then cannot live richly because he is in fear of death (Hebrews 2: 14-15, cf. I Corinthians 15: 55-56).

Satan keeps man in deathly existence (John 10: 10).

#### **4. The Word of Life: the Word is Life-giving.**

(i) John 10: 10. Come to give life.

(ii) His words give life, John 6:63 - what does this mean ?

(iii) Distorted existence is restored to harmonious life by healing, calming of the elements, banishment of sickness, exorcism of the demons. Cf. Luke 4:31-37, 40-41, 8:22-25.

#### **5. The Word of Life gives Life through Forgiveness.**

(i) Woman of Samaria, woman taken in adultery, woman a sinner. John 4. John 8. Luke 7.

(ii) (a) Paralyse man healed (Matthew 9: 1-8).

(b) Penitent thief on the Cross (Luke 22: 32-43).

(c) Prodigal son (Luke 15).

(iii) Forgiveness through the Cross. I John 4:9-10 (note 'that we might live through him'). I Peter 2:24. II Corinthians 5:21.

#### **6. New Life to Man through the Death and Resurrection.**

John 3:14, 16, 5:24, Acts 16:31, cf. Acts 13:38, Rom. 10:9.

#### **7. Present Life through His Indwelling.**

Philippians 1: 21. Colossians 3: 16. I John 5: 12.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What do we understand regarding the created life of man? How did he live?

2. How did man's spiritual death come about? Was it only 'spiritual'? What is the state and manner of this 'death-existence'? Discuss it (a) in the light Romans 1: 18-23, (b) Romans 5:12-21, (c) Gen. 3: 22-24.
3. What is the relationship between forgiveness and life? How does the Cross/Resurrection give life, especially from I John 4:9-10?
4. Discuss Romans 6:7 and 7:6 in the light of law and grace. In what way does the law mean life, and in what way death ?
5. What is Satan's 'power of death' mentioned in Hebrews 2:15? Compare it with I John 4: 16-18. What conclusion do you draw?

## ***STUDY THREE***

### **THE WORD OF TRUTH**

#### **1. Introduction: the Way God communicates Truth.**

Man rejected God and the truth. Romans 1: 18-25. God is not wanted by man. Romans 1:28, 3:10-11 (cf. Psalm 14:1f). God is not obligated to reveal Himself yet He does by prophecy (and prophets), angelic messengers, dreams, visions, 'creation, the law, Messiah, the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, the church. Also His acts reveal Him when men read these aright - by the Spirit and the Scriptures.

#### **2. Man is wholly without the Knowledge of God.**

Even though God uses the media (nominated above) to reveal Himself, mankind does not wish to know God. Romans 1:25 says, 'he [man] exchanged the truth of God for a lie'. Man now lives without true knowledge of God. He does not listen to the true media of communication and revelation.

We have to conclude that although man can think logically yet (a) his primary premises are wrong, and (b) although there is much factuality in the universe, there is no truth apart from God and His word.

#### **3. Forces of Deception exist powerfully in the World.**

- (i) Satan is the universal deceiver. Revelation 12: 9, 13: 14, 19: 20, 20: 2-3, 10, cf. II Corinthians 4: 4-5.
- (ii) Sin is deceptive. Hebrews 3:12-13. Romans 7:11

- (iii) Lusters deceive. Ephesians 4: 22.
- (iv) Men deceive. I Corinthians 6:9, Ephesians 5:6 cf. Galatians 6: 7.
- (v) The lying idols. Psalm 115.

Because of these deceptive elements man lives without the true knowledge of God. He lives in ignorance because he prefers darkness to light.

#### 4. Christ is the True and Only Word of Truth.

- (i) Creation came through him, and providence also.
- (ii) He is the subject of the prophets. I Peter 1: 10-12, Luke 24:25-26.
- (iii) The prophets prophesied of his coming. John the Baptist bore witness to him.

Jesus was the Word made flesh. He spoke only the Father's word. Acts 10:36-43, John 7:16, 8:28, 14:10 cf. Hebrews 1:2.

Jesus said the disciples were clean through the word he had spoken. John 15: 3.

He said the Father's word sanctified His people. John 17:17. This meant that he, as the Word, was truth.

He said the Father's word is/was truth. John 17:17. This meant that he, as the Word, was truth.

He claims to be the truth. John 14: 6. He claims to witness to the truth. John 18: 37. He claims to have heard the truth from the Father. John 8: 40.

#### 5. Jesus is the Witness to the Truth.

John 18:37 cf. Acts 1:8, Revelation 1:2, 9, 3:7, 6:9, 12: 17, 20:4, 19: 10. The truth is the Gospel. Ephesians 1: 13, 4: 21.

#### 6. In Christ is all Truth, but Truth is not for knowing but for Living.

We live truth:-

- (i) In the OT see Deuteronomy 29: 29, Psalms 1, 19, 119 cf. Jeremiah 10:23
- (ii) In the NT see John 3:21, Ephesians 4:15, I John 1:6, II John 2, 3, 4, III John 1, 4.

**Conclusion: Without the Truth we do not know the Truth.**

In every way we must be subject to the Word.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. How did man lose the truth? When did it happen? What does it mean to be living a lie?
2. How can man find the truth? Discuss the media of revelation. How do they bring truth to us? Does man listen to them?
3. What does it mean - in regard to truth- that 'the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us'? What does it mean when it says that he was 'full of grace and truth'? How does this relate to John 1:16 and 18?
4. When Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life', What does this mean especially in the light of the whole verse of John 14:6?
5. How is Christ truth? Discuss this in the light of (a) what he said, (b) what he did, and (c) what he revealed, and (d) what he accomplished.

## ***STUDY FOUR***

### **THE WORD OF VICTORY**

#### **1. Introduction: the Word and the Sword.**

In Revelation 1: 16, 3:12 and 19:15 Christ is spoken of as having the two-edged sword. See also Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12-13 (Isaiah 55: 10f, John 6:63).

All of this shows us that 'the Word of God' (Rev. 19: 13) is also the Word which is the Sword. Thus he accomplishes victory.

#### **2. Christians are called upon to battle.**

- (i) Ephesians 6: 10-18, II Corinthians 10:1-3, I Thessalonians 5: 8-11 cf. II Corinthians 6:7.
- (ii) Revelation 20:7-10 cf. 19:11-16.
- (iii) The action of conflict lies in being part of Christ's action. I Corinthians 15: 24-28.
- (iv) We are called to conquer. Revelation 2 and 3 (each letter, 'He who conquers'), cf, Rev. 21: 5-7.

#### **3. Christ - as the Word - is Victor over all Enemies.**

- (i) Satan. Hebrews 2: 14-15. We over him. I John 2:12-14, James 4:7, I Peter 5:6-9, Revelation 12: 10.
- (ii) Principalities and powers. Romans 8: 35-38. (Note the daily battle.)
- (iii) Sin. John 8:32-36, Romans 6: 12, 14.
- (iv) Death. II Timothy 1: 10, I Corinthians 15:55- 56.
- (v) Law. Romans 7:3-7, Galatians 2:19-20, II Cor. 3:6.

- (vi) World. Galatians 1: 5, 6:10 cf. John 12: 31, 16: 11, I John 4: 4.
- (vii) Flesh. Romans 8:11-13, Galatians 5:24.

#### **4. Our Part in the Victory.**

- (i) We are proclaimers of the victorious and dynamic word. Acts 1:8 cf. Revelation 1:2, 9, 6:9, 12:17, 20: 4, 19: 5.
- (ii) We have been commissioned to preach and witness. Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20, Acts 1: 8.
- (iii) Ours is the prophetic word. Acts 2:17-21, Revelation 19:5 + Acts 1: 8.
- (iv) Ours is the word of the Cross. I Corinthians 1:17-18, 2: 1-4, Galatians 6: 14.
- (v) Ours is the word of witness. Revelation 1: 2, 9, 12: 11, 17, 6: 9.

#### **5. At Present we have the Place of Authority.**

- (i) Romans 5:17.
- (ii) Ephesians 2:5f cf. Matthew 28: 18-20.

#### **6. The Fruit of the Word.**

- (i) Principle. Isaiah 55:10ff + Psalm 33:6, 9, 148: 5-6, Hebrews 4:12, Revelation 19:13-15.
- (ii) The word of the Cross is fruitful. John 12: 22-26, Isaiah 53: 11.

#### **7. Conclusion: We must be People of the Word.**

Note the injunctions in the pastoral epistles to give time to the word, to preach and to teach it. This must be in the power of the Spirit.



**QUESTIONS:**

1. In what way is the Word of Christ the sword? What does the sword primarily mean in Scripture? See Deuteronomy 32: 39-42, Romans 13:1ff cf. Hebrews 4: 12-13.
2. Christians are called upon to battle. Why? What the actual battle? What does it accomplish? which way does the sword assist us?
3. What enemies has Christ defeated? By what special principle did he do this? If he has defeated them why should we still battle them? What place does faith play in this battle, since it is called 'the battle of faith'?
4. What has been the church's part in the use of the Word down through the ages? How powerful is the truth in the face of deceitful forces? How can truth win ?
5. What do we mean by saying, 'Ours is the prophetic word'? What, then, is 'the word of witness'? What is the prophetic community? How does it differ from the priestly community (I Peter 2: 4-10, Hebrews 13: 15-16)? What is meant by I Peter 4: 10-11?
6. What is your general conclusion as to the whole subject of 'the Word of life'?