



Man Verses The Bible

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:22-25 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through **the word of God which lives and abides forever**, 24 because...



"All flesh is as grass,
And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.
The grass withers,
And its flower falls away,
25 But the word of the Lord endures forever."

Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

NKJV



Yesterday was our nation's birthday. July 4th, is called Independence Day.

We declared our independence from Great Britain in 1776. Truly a remarkable period of history, and what a wonderful nation came forth from that conflict!

Independence

Independence...

Can one truly be independent in this life?

In one sense YES! ...in another NO!

Yes we are free to make our own decisions. We are "free moral agents", possessing the ability to exercise our free will and chose how we will live and what we will do.

Independence

But to be independent from God is another matter entirely.

We may reject God... We may refuse to believe and follow God.

But God is still there... He is not going away.

All men are still dependent upon Him whether they are willing to admit it or not.

Without Him we would all be doomed.

To the church at Laodicea, our Lord had John write these sobering words...

'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are **wretched** and **miserable** and **poor** and **blind** and **naked**, **Revelation 3:17**

Man is dependent upon God whether He knows it or not.

Turn with me this morning to the book of Jeremiah...

Jeremiah 36:20-25 And they went to the king, into the court; but they stored the scroll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the hearing of the king. 21 So the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll, and he took it from Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king. 22 Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him. 23 And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. 24 **Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments**, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words. 25 Nevertheless Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah implored the king not to burn the scroll; but he would not listen to them.

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Early in the sixth century B.C., one who literally “destroyed” the Word of God and paid dearly for his arrogance was Jehoiakim, king of Judah.

Jehoiakim’s 11-year reign was disastrous. He came to the throne at the age of 25. Placed on the throne **as a puppet king** by Egypt’s Pharaoh Necho II (who had killed Jehoiakim’s father, King Josiah, in battle).

Although he had opportunity to follow his father Josiah’s righteous example (**Jeremiah 22:15-16**), Jehoiakim turned to evil. Jeremiah described him as a presumptuous ruler who abused his own people (**Jeremiah 22:13-14**) and persecuted and murdered God’s servants (**Jeremiah 26:20-23**).

To show what blatant disregard the king had toward God and His Word, consider this brief story...

Jeremiah 26:20-23 20 Now there was also a man who prophesied in the name of the Lord, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath Jearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah. 21 And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid and fled, and went to Egypt. 22 Then Jehoiakim the king sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor, and other men who went with him to Egypt. 23 And they brought Urijah from Egypt and brought him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people. NKJV

So God instructed Jeremiah to prophesy that, unless they repented, King Jehoiakim and Jerusalem would fall (**Jeremiah 36:1-32**). Jeremiah had God’s words recorded by his scribe, Baruch, and instructed him to read those prophecies to the people of Judah. God hoped they would repent and avoid their prophesied downfall (**Jeremiah 36:4-7**).

When the princes heard Jeremiah’s prophetic words, they quickly conveyed them to Jehoiakim (**Jeremiah 36:19**). Then the king heard the princes’ account of Jeremiah’s predictions and sent an officer to bring the scroll to him (**Jeremiah 36:21**).



Jehoiakim commanded the officer to read aloud from the scroll. After the man read several columns, the king would cut away that part of the scroll, then contemptuously toss it into the fire burning in the hearth before him. The king continued “until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth”

Jehoiakim apparently thought he was accountable to no one. But God would have the last word.

The Lord instructed Jeremiah to prepare another scroll like the first (**Jeremiah 36:27-32**). God reserved strong words for Jehoiakim: “He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed” (**Jeremiah 36:30-31**).

Sadly, Jehoiakim persisted in his defiance and suffered the consequences. Defeated by the Babylonians and dragged away in chains, he apparently died on his way to or in captivity in Babylon.

The lesson of King Jehoiakim applies to all leaders and all peoples: He who would attempt to destroy God's Word puts himself in great danger. Man cannot arrogantly challenge God without dealing with the consequences. God's Word is the foundation of all knowledge, and, unlike mortal man, it will endure forever as this morning's text clearly states...

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There is another story from the more recent past of another attempt to alter the Word of God.

Did you know that **Martin Luther** (back in the 16th century) **wanted the Book of James removed from the Bible? WHY would he want to do that???**



Because he felt that James emphasized too much about works.

This flew in the face of Martin Luther's doctrine of salvation by faith...

Luther believed that man's only required response to God's offer of salvation was simply to trust in God's perfect love by faith.

His conclusion was that works of obedience had nothing to do with man's redemption. Since man **could not** do enough to save himself, works have nothing to do with man's salvation.

Hence the phrase, "Saved by Faith alone"

The followers of Luther today say that, "faith must be the sole foundation of a believer and that after it **fully exists** then good works will flow from it."

The problem with this idea is the common theme throughout the Bible of obedience to God.

Keep My commandments.

Do according to all that is written.

Keep My statutes.

Obedience....is a common requirement of anyone coming to God seeking salvation.

Hebrews 11 reveals that we must put FAITH together with WORKS (actions).

It was by and through faith, that Abel, Abraham and others OBEYED God (verses 4, 8).

Psalm 119 **praises** those who **OBEY** God's law, who **keep** his testimonies, who **walk** in his ways and who not only **seek God** with all their heart but also **diligently keep** his precepts (Psalm 119:1 - 4)!

As you can see action is required. You have to do something if you want to be saved.

God offers the gift of eternal life to anyone who is willing to receive it. But you must take the offered gift before it can be yours. We do this by obeying God's commands in faith.

A New Testament verse that refutes Martin Luther's teachings that you only need faith and that once you have it, works will follow, is ...

Revelation 14:12-13 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. 13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."
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The book of James makes it clear that if one wishes to be saved, they MUST obey the Lord.

James 2:18-24 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? **21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?** 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.
NKJV



And now one of the most recent attempts to down-play and ignore the Word of God is **The Supreme Court's recent decision** to legalize "Gay Marriage".

This is an abomination. A perversion that is plainly condemned in both the Old & New Testaments of the Bible. Homosexuality is a sinful practice and will cost those who engage in such ... their immortal souls.

But Man continues to fight against God.

It is so infuriating, we want to slap some sense into the heard of our leaders.

That is what we feel like doing.

The answer is so plain... It is right in front of us, but man often just looks the other way or simply rejects that with which he does not agree or accept as true.



Not TRAILMIX

We cannot just pick and choose what we like or agree with.



If God is real...

If the Bible is God's Word...

If God expects us to obey Him...

...We cannot be independent from God or God's Word.

We cannot fight against the Scriptures.

Shred your Bible, Tear your Bible, Burn your Bible. That doesn't change anything does it?

The most common practice among those who claim to believe the Bible is God's Word, but who will not follow it... is seen in the condemnation of Jesus upon the Jews.

Matthew 15:1-9 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, 2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread." 3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God



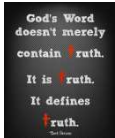
because of your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' 5 But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God" — 6 then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.

9 And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

NKJV (cf. **Mark 7:8**)



For years the denominations have tried to determine if the Bible is the Word of God, or does it merely contain the Word of God.



I close this morning where this lesson started.

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endures forever."