

## Attitudes Toward God's Word

Psalm 119:103-107

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** An attitude is the frame of mind one has toward a thing; a viewpoint or position.
  - A. One wise man said, "Attitude is where you are in relation to where you ought to be."
  - B. Men have many different attitudes toward God's Word; many of which keep them from obedience
2. **3** Let's look at seven attitudes men have towards the Word of God; I challenge you to identify the attitude that best describes you (2 Cor. 13:5).

### II. DISCUSSION:

#### I. **4** Rebellion:

##### A. Israel:

**Isa. 1:2-4:** "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: 'I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me; 3 The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, My people do not consider.' 4 Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward."

**Jer. 6:16:** "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'"

**2 Tim. 4: 2-5:** "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

##### B. King Saul: 1 Sam. 15:2-3; 15:8-9; 15:13-23

**1 Sam. 15:22-23:** "So Samuel said: 'Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.'"

##### C. Jews of Christ's day: **Jn. 5:40:** "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."; **Matt. 23:37:** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

##### D. Naaman: 2 Kgs. 5:10-14

##### E. **\*\*** Men of today:

- (1) Baptism: Mk. 16:15-16; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21
- (2) The Church: Matt. 16:18 (Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16); Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4
- (3) Authority: Matt. 28:18; Jn. 12: 48; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11
- (4) Organization of the church: Col. 1:18; Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; 20:17, 28; 1 Pet. 5:1-2

- (5) Mission of the church: Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Tim. 5:16
- (6) How to live: Titus 2:11-12
- (7) Marriage, divorce and remarriage: Matt. 19:9

2. **5** Substitution: there used to be an advertising motto that went: "Accept no substitutes!"

- A. Cain: Gen. 4:3-5; Heb. 11:4; **1 Jn. 3:12**: "not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous."
- B. Galatians: substituted another gospel for the real McCoy: Gal. 1:6-9.
- C. **\*\*** Men of today: substitute...
  - (1) Other plans of salvation.
    - (a) Prayer (aka 'sinner's prayer'): **Rom. 10:16-17**: "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, LORD, who has believed our report? 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."; Matt. 7:21; Acts 22:16
    - (b) Direct operation of the Holy Spirit: Rom. 1:16; 10:17; Mk. 16:15
  - (2) Other churches: Matt. 16:18 (43,000+ denominations!); Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4
  - (3) Other works for the church (e.g., social gospel vs. 1 Tim. 3:15; Col. 1:21-22).
  - (4) Other standards to live by (good moral character; Acts 10:1-2).

3. **6** Presumption:

- A. David recognized the danger of the sins one commits because of this attitude:
 

**Psa. 19:13**: "Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression."

**Num. 15:30-31**: "But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people. 31 Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him."
- B. Presumption is to assume something rather than be certain of something (You know what happens when you assume!)(1 Chron. 13:6-12; 15:13).
- C. To act without faith is presumptuous (2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17; assume vs. 1 Pet. 4:11):
 

**Heb. 1:1-2**: "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."

**Deut. 29:29**: "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."
- D. **\*\*** Acts of presumption today:
  - (1) Instrumental music: **Eph. 5:19**: "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,"; Col. 3:16
  - (2) Church furnished entertainment (1 Tim. 3:15; Col. 1:18, 21-22; Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:47).
  - (3) Using the church as a general welfare agency (1 Tim. 5:16; recall D'ville clothing deal).

4. **7** Addition:

- A. We are told plainly about this sinful attitude:
 

**Deut. 4:2**: "You shall not add to the word which I command you..."

**Rev. 22:18:** *“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;”*

B. **\*\*** Many add to what God has commanded today on the subjects of:

(1) Music in worship – God says sing; claim the instrument is an “aid”: Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.

(2) Baptism, the act—God says it is a burial; man says it’s also sprinkling and pouring:

**Rom. 6:3-4:** *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were **buried** with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

**Col. 2:12:** *“**buried** with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”*

(a) Sprinkle: *rhantizo*: “to sprinkle” (Thayer).

(b) Pour: *katacheo*: “to pour down upon; to pour over, to pour upon” (Thayer).

(c) Baptize: *baptizo*: “I. properly, to dip repeatedly, to immerge, submerge” (Thayer).

## 5. **8** Subtraction:

A. God warns us about it: **Rev. 22:18-19:** *“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*

B. Scribes and Pharisees: **Matt. 23:23:** *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”*

C. **\*\*** Subtractions of men today: antithesis of 1 Pet. 4:11

(1) People who eat the Lord’s Supper when they please (Acts 20:7).

(2) Men have subtracted baptism from the Lord’s plan of salvation (Mk. 16:16).

(3) “Continual cleansing” subtracts the second law of pardon:

(a) Confess our sin: **1 Jn. 1:9:** *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

(b) Repent of our sin: **Acts 8:22:** *“Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.”*

## 6. **9** Negligence:

A. Peter said he would not be negligent to put others in remembrance of God’s Word (**2 Pet. 1:12:** *“For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.”*).

B. Many are negligent in their relationship to the Lord and His church.

(1) In attendance (Heb. 10:25).

(2) In giving (1 Cor. 16:1–2).

(3) In worship & service (Mal. 1:13; Heb. 4:11).

(4) In work, prayer, and living (1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Thess. 5:17; Titus 2:11-12).

C. Many are negligent to the great salvation (**Heb. 2:3**: “how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,”; Matt. 7:13-14).

7. **10 Obedience: I Sam. 15:22**: “So Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.’”

**Heb. 5:8–9**: “though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,”

**Matt. 7:21**: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

A. Rev. 2:10

B. 2 Cor. 5:7; I Sam. 3:9; I Cor. 15:58

C. **Gal. 5:6**: “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”; Rom. 1:5; 16:26

### III. CONCLUSION: ||

1. What is your attitude toward the word of God?

- ☛ Rebellion?
- ☛ Substitution?
- ☛ Presumption?
- ☛ Addition?
- ☛ Subtraction?
- ☛ Negligence?
- ☛ Obedience?

2. Only one of those attitudes will get us to heaven!

Adapted from a sermon (*Attitudes Toward the Word of God*) by Ron Halbrook (Underwood Hts. 1975; WXOR Radio, Florence, AL 1975; Hebron Lane 1989; Riverbend 1997)