



Live by the Word

We've been studying a most unique set of instructions from Matthew 4:4. This study on the God-breathed word has already taught us about figures of speech of which 'out of the mouth of God' is one. What more can we learn from this verse?

(Mat 4:4) But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

It says that man shall 'live' by every word out of the mouth of God. What this means is that all of God's word, from Genesis to Revelation, is designed to help man live.



(Prov 6:23) For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

(Prov 4:22) For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

The bible brings life to God's people and is not written for unbelievers, but for those who will to believe. The word of God is life to those who find them and health to all their flesh. If

this is true, we need to put it to the test. God's word testifies of itself. We need to work this from the inside out and never bring it down to our level. We go up to the word and change to follow it. The word of God is life!

(John 6:63) It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

God's words are literally spiritual life. We need to search these words for our very life. These words tell us all that we will ever need to know about God and the things of God.

Live by the Word

Doctrine, Reproof, Correction

(2 Tim 3:16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

God's word is profitable for doctrine, reproof, and correction, which is instruction in righteousness. These three major lines fit with all of the word of God. God instructs his people in righteousness by using doctrine, reproof and correction.

DOCTRINE means how to believe rightly.

REPROOF is used when we do not believe rightly.

CORRECTION gets us back to believing rightly, and all of these sum up into:

INSTRUCTION IN
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Applying these truths will

bring us to the place where we understand what God wants us to know. Then we can live the greatness of all that God made available through his wonderful word.

The word of God is profitable for doctrine, for reproof and for correction. When I have not believed rightly, the word of God reproves me. The word of God has to do the reproofing. No man has the right to reprove another man; only the word can. We each have different needs and are uniquely individual from one another. We must go to the word and see what the word says. I take my reproof, not from what man says, but from what the word says. Further, it corrects us. With a child, we are quick to tell him not to do something, but many times, we fail to follow through with proper correction. The word of God follows through with correction, a totally

natural experience common in everything that we do.

Traditions and Customs

Man's traditions fall miserably short when compared to God's instructions and desires. We are not to place traditions above God's word.

(Mark 7:9) And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

You don't wash your cups the right way. How silly. If you read this chapter, you'll see that these accusers were in the wrong. Traditions mean nothing to God. Following God's word means everything to him. On the outside, traditions appear really good, but inside, no deal. The commandments of men are never right doctrine for right believing, just never!

Live by the Word

(Isa 29:13) Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Traditions and customs fail to draw a man's heart to God; only his word can do this. The word is profitable for three things, Doctrine, Reproof and Correction. It is instruction in right believing. Every word falls into one of these three categories. Just because a person knows the word doesn't mean that he will carry out what the word says. People hold the truth, but the truth does not necessarily hold them.

The bible has no error in it except for what man has done. A man has the privilege to say that he

doesn't believe. I say wonderful! Some say that they are atheists but do you know that such a belief is an impossibility? Why? They are confessing a system of beliefs. The bible was not written for the unbelievers, the God rejecters, and the infidels. The bible was written for men and women who want to live according to God's promises. It is written for those who want to believe, who want to live a life that is positive and triumphant in Christ. *A person from outside the word has no footing to stand on when he tries to judge the word for the word has already judged him.* You always reprove by sharing the word. We want to build each other up and we do this by speaking God's word. It's not good enough to just say, "The word says so!" Take them to the word—chapter and verse—and declare the God

Breathed Word!

Much Love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown