



Not a Word Left Out of the Word

"Then afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them."

Joshua 8:34-35

Why is it that less and less American church-goers believe in absolute truth? How is it possible that the literal interpretation of Scripture has become a minority view? These and other disturbing trends are connected to another downward spiral in Christian activity: Reading the Bible. It doesn't take a lot of analysis to directly link the fact that Christians are struggling with the truth to their struggle with the Truth.

If what Joshua did had taken place in today's politically correct world, it might have been amended to show that Joshua read all the Law except those parts offensive to feminists, and that he made sure to change all the pronouns and references to God to something gender-neutral for the portions he did read aloud. Or that he left out the scary and explicit passages in the presence of children. Or desiring to create an atmosphere more "seeker sensitive", he left out anything that might be offensive, difficult, or misinterpreted by visitors (i.e., "strangers").

According to today's political correctness restraints, some might cringe at such as everyone hearing all the laws on sexual relationships, all the laws on animal sacrifices, or a myriad of other "delicate" subjects

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such as circumcision or even death penalties. But this isn't a phenomena limited to just the Old Testament, but extends to the entire Bible and some of the most basic tenets of the Christian faith. Information is diluted, made "more palatable", or outright withheld in the name of tailoring biblical truth to the audience so as not to offend.

A friend involved in children's ministries for many years, providing special services for children, has come to expect what she calls "the inevitable briefing from the pastor". This is where a list of things is conveyed that are deemed unacceptable for children which the pastor/local congregation does not want brought up to children. An item that gets consistent attention is Christ's death. Nothing is supposed to be mentioned that can be associated with the "traumatizing" story of the death and resurrection of Christ such as blood or death or Calvary. Sin and guilt are to be avoided as well in order not to "send the wrong message" to the children. None of these topics are considered acceptable for children and somehow all teaching curriculums are stripped of these and other basic biblical teachings "for the sake of the kids".

This is becoming true for many churches embracing "seeker sensitive" services, to carefully craft an experience that can't possibly "offend" anyone by bringing up the uncomfortable issues of sin, salvation, Christ on the cross, etc. And the list continues at great length to cover the topics that shouldn't be brought up that can "offend" or "intimidate" people such as martial fidelity, sexual immorality, etc. They fail to grasp that no matter how nice we are to someone, that if we never share the whole Truth of the Gospel with them so that they might be saved, that we're actually sending them to hell. Is THAT the kind of love you have for your neighbor?

There is a simple word that is repeatedly used throughout Scripture to describe the right approach to God's Word, this word being the difference between God's Word working in our life and on our behalf versus one day being used to convict and judge us. That word is "*all*".

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Repeatedly this is the word that accompanies God's commands concerning the reading and application of His Word. Not "some", not "the relevant parts", not "as much as feels right", but "**all**".

*"You shall thus observe **all** My statutes and **all** My ordinances and do them; I am the LORD."*

Leviticus 19:37

It's the only appropriate response when making a commitment to God's Word, that we will be wholly and completely devoted to even the smallest detail of God's Word.

*"So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them **all** these words which the LORD had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, '**All** that the LORD has spoken we will do!' And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD."*

Exodus 19:7-8

Christ Himself stated that He was concerned with ALL of God's Word, even down to dotting of the "I" and crossing of the "T", so to speak.

*"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until **all** is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*

Matthew 5:17-19

God commanded Israel to make His entire Word such an integral part of each individual's life that it be included on their doorways and in their clothing as a reminder not just of their "favorite" verse, but of His **WHOLE** Word.

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*"Speak to the sons of Israel, and tell them that they shall make for themselves tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and that they shall put on the tassel of each corner a cord of blue. It shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember **all** the commandments of the LORD, so as to do them and not follow after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you played the harlot, so that you may remember to do **all** My commandments and be holy to your God."*

Numbers 15:38-40

It was the common thread in God's promises to David and all those that followed in the messianic seed line that their faithfulness to keep all of His Word was the essential responsibility on their part.

*"Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon saying, 'Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep **all** My commandments by walking in them, then I will carry out My word with you which I spoke to David your father. I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.'"*

1 Kings 6:11-13

Whenever spiritual revival and restoration are documented, they are always accompanied by a total and complete recommitment to all of God's Word.

"Then the king sent, and they gathered to him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. The king went up to the house of the Lord and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great; and he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant."

2 Kings 23:1-3

"Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD the great God. And all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen!' while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah,

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Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, explained the law to the people while the people remained in their place. They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading."

Nehemiah 8:5-8

*"But if the wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed and observes **all** My statutes and practices justice and righteousness, he shall surely live; he shall not die. All his transgressions which he has committed will not be remembered against him; because of his righteousness which he has practiced, he will live."*

Ezekiel 18:21-22

When we look at David as a spiritual role model, someone that God Himself declared was a man after His own heart, one of David's repeated character traits was a love for God's entire Word and the desire to follow every last word of it.

*"The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness;
According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.
For I have kept the ways of the LORD,
And have not wickedly departed from my God.
For **all** His ordinances were before me,
And I did not put away His statutes from me."*

Psalms 18:20-22

The members of the Trinity withhold nothing from us, instead disclosing everything to make Believers whole themselves.

*"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into **all** the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. **All** things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you."*

John 16:13-15

The fact is that the further we stray from God's Word, the more that we "edit" which portions are shared or not, then the further from the Truth we travel both personally and as a church. The only way to become wholly and exclusively devoted to Christ—the theological term

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for this being "sanctified"—is through a recommitment to every single word of God's Word.

*"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."
John 17:17*

To recover from the effects of sin, to expose false teaching and drive away spiritual deception, to bring about spiritual revival are not complicated or "secret" processes, but rooted in the simple act of taking seriously **ALL** of God's Word to the point of sharing, living, and teaching **every** last word of it.

In His Love,
Servant@LogosWalk.com