



LIVING IN THE WORD "Revere, Resort, & Respond to the Word" John 8:31-38

No. 6575

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I. Context.

- A. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world"; some rejected His message, others "believed." v. 12
- B. Jesus impressed on His listeners what it meant "really" to be His disciple. v. 31
- C. Opposition to His sayings led to violence on the part of some. v. 59
Was this evidence of superficial "believing," or were there two different groups?

II. Key Statement. v. 31

- A. The supreme importance of "holding to my teaching." (lit. "living in my word")
- B. "Living in the word" is the characteristic "hallmark" of genuine discipleship. *cf* v. 37
- C. The life of discipleship predicated on "the word" leads to "knowledge of the truth." v. 40
- D. "Knowledge of the truth" offers "freedom" from spiritual "slavery." v. 36

III. What Does It Mean to "Live in my Word"?

- A. It means "revering the word deeply" because:
 - 1. He/it is "Logos" – it is reason, it reveals, it redeems. 1:1-14
NOTE: Greek philosophical usage of "Logos"; Hebrew understanding of "Word of God."
 - 2. "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life." John 6:63
 - 3. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Mark 13:31
 - 4. "The one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word will condemn him at the last day... the Father who sent me commanded me what to say." 12:48-49
- B. It means "resorting to the word constantly."
"Living in" (Gk. 'Meno') signifies a settled determination to live in the word of Christ and by it, and so entails a perpetual listening to it, reflection on it, holding fast to it, carrying out its bidding." (Beasley-Murray)
- C. It means "responding to the word appropriately."
 - 1. Worship as response to revelation.
 - 2. Obedience as response to command.
 - 3. Faith as response to enlightenment.
 - 4. Repentance as response to correction.

Questions:

- 1. How do you respond to the statement, "I am a believer but not a disciple"?
- 2. What was the connection between the words that Jesus spoke and the title "Word" given to Him?
- 3. Do you personally "resort to the word constantly"? If so, how do you do it most effectively?