

**Chapter Eleven:**  
**A Universal Truth**  
**vs.**  
**A Devotional Thought**

# A Universal Truth or a Devotional Thought

## (Chapter and Verse Please)

Why is it so hard to distinguish between our convictions and God's Word?

Have you ever held a conviction, that you thought was right, that you thought was from the Bible but as you grew in Christ you found out that was not the case?

How would the use of the Bible slow your teaching down?

How would the use of the Bible motivate you in the area of scripture memory?

### **I. It is important to distinguish between God's Word and our thoughts.**

#### **A. The exposition of a passage**

1. What is exposition of scripture?
2. How does the discipline protect us from error?

#### **B. VS. The support of our thoughts with a passage.**

1. What would be an example of this?
2. How is this misused in the church today?
3. As the Word of God becomes more and more embarrassing to the Evangelical Pragmatists and less and less necessary to the Evangelical Mystics, we will see a decline in exposition and an explosion in "scripture springboards". The use of a verse to spring board into what we want to talk about.

### **II. We cannot use the teaching and/or preaching found in the Historical Revelation of the Bible as our guide.**

#### **A. Example – Jesus and the Old Testament**

Did Jesus quote verses to establish His teachings?

Did Jesus use parables and stories without quoting the Bible?

Since Jesus is our example, why can't we do the same thing?

1. It is often pointed out that Jesus began with a passage and then took it to its current application in modern culture
2. Or that He inserted Old Testament passages into His sermons to make them relevant to His speakers.
3. This view of Christ view of the Word of God fails to take into account...
  - a. He is God
  - b. He at that time was the Word of God incarnate
  - c. All that He did and said was God's actions and God's Word

#### **B. Example – Paul and Sermon on Mars Hill**

Did Paul quote the Bible every time he dealt with a current issue in the churches?

Did Paul use contemporary examples in his sermons?

Some of Paul's letters contain no quotes from the Bible of that day, others contain a quote but he obviously builds upon it as a "spring board" to current issues. Why can't we do the same thing?

1. It is often pointed out that Paul used no scripture in his sermon on Mars Hill.
2. That is like saying that Moses used no scripture in the writing of the Law
3. Or that Jeremiah used no scripture in the giving of his prophecies.

4. Luke, in recording Paul's sermon on Mars Hill, was doing so under the divine authorship of the Holy Spirit.
5. Paul, was an apostle, and as such spoke on the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
6. Rather than saying that Paul quoted no scripture in the sermon on Mars Hill,
7. It should be pointed out that every single word of Paul's sermon on Mars Hill was scripture.

### **III. In our approach to the Word of God it is important to submit our thoughts and convictions to the Word of God.**

#### **A. God's thoughts are secret**

DEU 29:29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

ECC 11:5 Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones are formed in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things.  
 JOH 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written.

1CO 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

#### **B. God's thoughts are not our thoughts**

ISA 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.

#### **C. God's Word is higher**

ISA 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

ROM 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

1CO 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.

#### **D. God's Word is foolishness**

GEN 19:14 And Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, "Up, get out of this place, for the Lord will destroy the city." But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

GEN 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

GEN 18:12 And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

2CH 30:10 So the couriers passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them.

MAT 11:25 ¶ At that time Jesus answered and said, "I praise Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and intelligent and didst reveal them to babes.

MAT 27:31 And after they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

MAR 5:39 And entering in, He said to them, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep."

MAR 5:40 And they began laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and entered the room where the child was.

1CO 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,

#### **E. God's Word is revealed**

"Thus says the Lord" – 416 times in the NASB

DEU 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

DEU 30:11 "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.

DEU 30:12 "It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?'

DEU 30:13 "Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?'

DEU 30:14 "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.

ISA 48:16 "Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit."

#### **F. God's Word is judge**

HEB 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

#### **G. God's Word is not to be exceeded**

1CO 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

### **IV. Application: "Chapter and verse please..."**

- A. When hearing
- B. When reading
- C. When teaching
- D. When requested

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME: Universal Truth vs. Devotional Thought**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Deuteronomy 29:29**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 2:11**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 55:9**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?  
Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**  
***JEREMIAH 15:16***  
**THEME: Universal Truth vs. Devotional Thought**

<p><b><u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> I Corinthians 1:23</b> How does this passage relate to the theme?</p> <p>When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:</p> <p>How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?</p>
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<p><b><u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> Deuteronomy 30:11-14</b> How does this passage relate to the theme?</p> <p>When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:</p> <p>How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?</p>
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<p><b><u>PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION:</u> Hebrews 4:12; I Corinthians 4:6</b> How does this passage relate to the theme?</p> <p>When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:</p> <p>How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?</p>
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