How to Receive the Word of God

Introduction:

Christians have been called to embrace the bible as the very word of God. 1 Thessalonians 2:9-16. Focus on 2:13 – especially… *you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God.* How do we do this today? How can we receive the bible as the word of God?

I. The apostolic word is the word of God.

A. 2:13 – Paul claims his teaching is the word of God.
   1. Jesus chose 12 apostles to represent Him with authority.
      a. John 16:13 – apostles would be guided into all truth. Their words were written down and became the New Testament.
   2. The New Testament is our source of rule and authority.
   3. 1 Corinthians 2:13 – Paul referred to his teaching as the word of God.
      a. 2 Corinthians 10:8; 13:10 – apostles were given authority for purpose of building up.
   4. Examples throughout the Corinthian letters that carried the apostolic weight of authority – 1 Corinthians 14:37-38

B. Peter confirms the divine authority Paul had as an apostle by describing the writings of Paul in the same category as the inspired passages of the Old Testament.
   1. 2 Peter 3:15-16

II. We must accept the word of God with the right attitude.

A. 1 Thess. 2:13
   1. Focus on "receive." Receive means the word of God came to them in objective form. There is an objective standard to go by.

B. Contrast this to the view of scripture that is popular in some circles today.
   1. Some say word of man becomes the word of God if we receive it as such.

C. "Accept" 2:13 - Means to "welcome" or to "embrace" as what is.

III. How to embrace the word of God.

A. 2:14 compares to 1:6-7 – connection between the contexts of both passages.

B. 1:6a – they received the word even though it meant "much affliction".
   1. It was precious to them.

C. 1:6b – they received it with the "joy of the Holy Spirit."
   1. Word of God produces joy. It is precious and pleasant.
   2. Psalm 19:10

D. 1:7 – they received it as practical. Word of God changed their lives in visible ways.

E. Leave you today with five suggestions:
   1. Memorize it. Psalm 19:11; 1 John 2:14
   2. Meditate on it. Psalm 1:2
   3. Make music with it. Colossians 3:16
   4. Minister with the word
   5. Mind the word of God. Psalm 19:11; 1 John 5:3

Conclusion:

A. Let us welcome the bible as the word of God.

B. Will you heed the bible message?