

The Sum of God's Word

The psalmist was right when he praised Jehovah, "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*" (Psalm 119:105). Through the ages every time God spoke, He enlightened men with knowledge and wisdom from above. God, who is Light (1 John 1:5), illuminates when He speaks.

The psalmist also stated, "*The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting*" (119:160). All that God has spoken is not to be treated lightly. The Spirit-led psalmist understood that the whole, the totality of the Creator's words are significant, are to be heard and weighed. God's sum is His laws, statutes, ordinances, precepts and testimonies. Truth is the result of the whole story; truth is the aggregate of all that God has communicated. Thus, "*the sum of your word is truth.*"

In our later times God has spoken to man "*in His Son,*" who "*is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature and upholds all things by the word of His power*" (Hebrews 1:2, 3). Therefore, the gospel of Christ is to be preached to the world because it is the good news of salvation, the words of eternal life. "*...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*" (John 1:17). Jesus even said, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me*" (John 14:6).

The sum of Jesus' word is truth. Men are mishandling the word of truth (cf. 2 Timothy 2:15), if they extrapolate parts of Christ's teaching and commandments and do not heed the sum of His word. The whole of the Lord's doctrine is to be heeded. In His commissioning of the apostles to preach the gospel to all men, He specifically stated, Teach them "*to observe all that I commanded you*" (Matthew 28:20). All is the sum. Believers must do what Jesus said; believers must do what Christ's apostles have revealed. The consequence of failing to adhere to the sum of the word of truth is seen in this admonition: "*Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son*" (2 John 9).