

Series: Called to Follow
“The Commitment of a Disciple”

John 8:30-47

Today we continue in our series “Called to Follow” where we are discovering and being reminded of what it means to truly be a follower of Jesus. It is easy to claim to be a Christian and say that we believe, but if our claim is true there will be evidence that follows from our lives. Our professed “belief,” however, is nothing more than a mental fact or bit of knowledge if it is not acted upon. Let me illustrate that in a very simple way. I can claim to believe in a chair. In my mind, I think it was well made, and I can even say that I trust the manufacturer who made it, but I am not exercising “belief” until I actually act upon it. My professed “faith” becomes evident when I act on it by literally sitting in the seat. Similarly, many people profess “faith” in Jesus because they understand the mental fact that He died and rose again. Perhaps they understand His power and point to His many miracles. Perhaps they understand that He was a good man who went about doing good everywhere He went, and firmly believe that if everyone were more like that then the world be a better place. Each of these things is good, but to be a follower of Christ we must move beyond the mere mental facts of who Jesus is, and the mere emotions that make us feel good, and come to the point where we deliberately place our faith in Him. The Bible tells us in **James 2:19-20**, “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?” Even the demons of hell “believe” in God and tremble, but their belief is merely a mental knowledge and not that which is exercised or acted upon.

As we look to John 8, once again we begin by seeing a large crowd coming to Jesus. It is clear from the gospel accounts that Jesus invited all to come to Him, and many people did. Many came out of curiosity and intrigue, and as they heard His teachings and saw His miracles, many even came to believe in Him to some extent. This is seen repeatedly throughout the book of John. **John 7:31** says, “But MANY of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, ‘When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?’ ” On another occasion, in **John 10:42**, after Jesus proved that He was God in the flesh, the text simply says, “MANY believed in Him there.” In **John 11:45**, after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Bible says, “Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him.” Jesus was quite popular and many were moved by Him. Some hated Him, some were curious, and many “believed,” but as we will see throughout the remainder of this message today, there were many who claimed to “believe” who did not truly follow Him. Many professed to believe in Him, but Jesus was not content with their mental knowledge or even their temporary emotions. Jesus was now sifting through the crowd and calling them all to truly commit themselves to following Him. This is where we pick up the text today.

SHOW TEXT

As we dive into the message this morning, I want to begin with a simple but very important question: “In your life, what is your greatest commitment? What is your highest priority?” There are plenty of wonderful things that we may be committed to – our marriage, children, friends, extended family, jobs, etc. There are a host of things that we may claim to be our greatest

commitment, but ultimately how we spend our time and invest our resources will likely tell us our greatest commitment in life. As we evaluate our use of these valuable resources, we may determine that our commitments are different than what we think. For example, think for a moment about the amount of time that you spend on the ball field, the time spent watching TV, the time spent scrolling social media, the time spent just wasting time. The more we evaluate these things, the more we might find that our greatest commitments aren't as clear as we wish. Sadly, this is especially true in the Church today. Perhaps when you heard the initial question, you immediately thought of the old Sunday School answer, "Jesus! My greatest commitment is to Jesus." If that was your thought, however, I want you to evaluate and consider what that practically looks like in your life. Many claim a commitment to Christ, but if we honestly evaluate the time we spend worshipping Him, talking to Him, learning from Him, and serving Him, we may find that our commitment isn't as strong as we thought. Here in John 8 there were many Pharisees who thought that they were close to God. They were very religious and thought they were greatly committed to God, and even at this moment it appears that some from their group have "believed" in Jesus, but as Jesus addressed the crowd He revealed the truth that they were not truly committed to God at all. I pray today that we hear these words of Christ and examine our own lives to make sure that we, too, are committed to Him. If we want to accurately examine our belief in Jesus, we need to simply evaluate one primary area – our commitment and obedience to His Word. As we study the text, I wanted to see three components of the commitment of a disciple:

I. The Priority of God's Word (vs. 31-32)

It is amazing to me the number of people who claim to have a relationship with Jesus who are not committed to God's Word. Everything that takes place in this text is centered around the opening phrase of Jesus, "If you continue in My Word." For the Christian, our love for the Lord and our love for His Word should never be inseparable. To love the Lord is to love His Word, and to love His Word leads us to a deeper love for Him. God's Word at first glance does not seem as appealing as the glitz and glamor of the world around us. Our televisions and smartphones are filled with all sorts of graphics, images, and sounds that are constantly there to steal and keep our attention. The Word of God appears deep and heavy and doesn't have the same initial appeal as all of these other things. However, when we realize that the living God of heaven has recorded, protected, and preserved His Word for us, then it should create not only a deep respect and appreciation from us, but it should also stir a deep conviction in us and devotion from us. This is God's Holy Word, His love letter to us. ****ILL:** When Heather and I were dating back in college, I remember the first summer that we were apart. We didn't have cell phones or computers with cameras. All we had were landlines and phone cards. At the time, I planned to talk once a week over the phone, but within the first week, we talked several times and by the second week, we were talking every day. I could not wait to hear her voice on the other end of that line. A year later when we got engaged, I learned that she had been at her house waiting by the phone continually expecting and hoping for it to ring. Why? Because when there is a growing love for another it leads to a greater desire for further relationship. While this may be a very practical illustration, the truth is that God's Word is the same to us. The Bible is the living Word of God. Yes, it is the "word of truth" that it is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and for training, but ultimately it presents the Lord to us so that we may grow in our relationship with Him. God's Word still speaks into our hearts and lives today when we are willing to open our hearts and lives to hear it. To grow in Christ, we must commit to His Word. His Word, not our own personal will or our wants, must be a top priority in our lives. Jesus here tells us two specific things about the disciple and his relationship with the Word of God:

A. A Disciple Persists in God's Word

It is easy to hear Jesus' Word and be moved by emotions, encouraged in a moment of sorrow, and be hopeful for tomorrow, but Jesus immediately shows us that a true disciple is persistent in the Word of God. The Greek word that Jesus uses for "continue" literally means "to stay, to abide, and to remain." The imagery is of one who is not shaken, deterred, distracted, or derailed. The disciple of Jesus prioritizes God's Word and persists in it, no matter what the enemy brings against us.

We must understand that Satan does anything and everything he can to hinder people from responding to and remaining true to God's Word. The fact is that in Christ we need His Word, and we need the body of Christ to help us persist in God's Word. We see this in **Ephesians 4:13-15** as Paul describes the role of pastors and teachers in building up the body he says, "Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ." How do we do that? Among other things Paul answers this in **Colossians 3:16**, "Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." In other words, in the body of Christ, we each have a role to play in encouraging one another to continue faithfully in God's Word. There is a public component to this persistence in God's Word, but even this will fail if it is not first a personal conviction in your own life.

Each of us must determine to make God's Word a priority in our own lives. We will not continue in it at all if we are not first truly committed to it. **1 Peter 2:2** instructs us, "Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation." Just as a newborn baby naturally longs for nourishment from its mother, so, too, should the Christian long for nourishment in their relationship with the Lord. This nourishment comes from the Word of God. ****ILL:** Can you imagine what would happen to a baby if it only received nourishment once a week? The end result would not be good. Let me ask you, how healthy would you be if you only ate a meal and received nourishment once a week? Even if your only meal for the week was a delicious Sunday brunch, it would not last long. Your physical body would begin craving and needing food again. You would probably get restless and unhappy, but eventually consistently resisting food would lead to a complete breakdown of your physical body. In a similar way, our spiritual life needs the nourishment of God's Word to sustain and strengthen us, yet many seem to be convinced that a Sunday sermon is sufficient. Friends, there are no adequate substitutes for God's Word. I love praise and worship music, I enjoy Christian movies, I am grateful for Christian friends, I love a powerful sermon, and I often lean on counsel from godly men, but none of these good things are a substitute for my time of personal nourishment from His Word. The wise follower of Christ knows that we must persist in it. Psalm 119 repeatedly models for us the importance of God's Word. The psalmist declared it well in **Psalm 119:97**, "O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day." May this be true of every single one of us here today! May we continue in God's Word day

after day after day as our life is lived in faithful devotion to Him. We can't grow, we won't grow, without nourishment from God's Word, so we must prioritize it and persist in it.

B. A Disciple Profits from God's Word

This may sound like a strange statement, but we see immediately in the text that those who faithfully persist in God's Word receive several benefits and advantages. There are countless blessings available to all who by faith receive the Word of God and continue in it. Have you ever considered the blessings of God's Word? They are countless, but let's identify a few:

Have you considered first how studying God's Word **cultivates communion** with Him? Reading God's Word is not something that we do simply to check off the box on our "to-do" list. Taking in God's Word is about an ongoing relationship where we learn more and are drawn closer to Him. The psalmist said it well in **Psalm 119:2**, "How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart." He goes on to say in **verse 33-34**, "Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart." Do you hear the closeness and connection that he experienced? This happens as we abide in God's Word. Have you considered how the Word of God convicts us and keeps us from sin? Many do not think of conviction of sin as a benefit, but we need to know when we've done wrong. God's Word convicts us of sin and reveals things that we need to turn from, but when God's Word is hidden in our hearts it also brings conviction about the paths that we are to avoid. **Psalm 119:9-11** says it well, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your Word. With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments. Your Word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You." Have you considered how God's Word **comforts us** in our trials? We all go through trials, adversity, hardships, and burdens. There are so many living in despair and hopelessness. This, though, is never the situation for the believer who is faithfully meditating on the Word of God. **Psalm 119:49-52** declares, "Remember the word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your Word has revived me. The arrogant utterly deride me, yet I do not turn aside from Your law. I have remembered Your ordinances from of old, O Lord, and comfort myself." Have you ever considered how God's Word **counsels us** in the direction we should go? So many people in life, even Christians, seem to live their life without any sense of purpose or direction, but this does not need to be the case for the child of God who faithfully studies God's Word. God speaks through His Word to guide and direct us. Through His Word He gives insight and instruction for how we are to live, where we are to go, and what we are to do. **Psalm 119:97-100, 105** says it well, "O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Your precepts... Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." There are countless benefits and blessings that God bestows on those who receive God's Word by faith and faithfully walk in it. Here in John 8, Jesus states two:

First, those who continue in His Word will "know the truth." At first glance, this seems like an obvious statement. Surely if you study something then you will eventually "know" it, but we need to understand the distinction of what Jesus is saying. The Greek language uses two primary words to describe "knowing" something - *oidamen* and *ginosko*. The first word

describes knowledge as something that is learned through observation and explanation. This would best describe the student who studies a subject and “knows” certain facts. The second term, ginosko, means “to personally, intimately, and experientially know something.” In other words, the picture of “knowing the truth” is a picture of a personal, experiential relationship. Jesus is emphatically saying that as we continue in His Word, we will personally experience and know Him. Remember, in **John 14:6b** Jesus declared, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” As we read God’s Word we do not simply passively observe facts about Jesus, but we get to experience Him personally and intimately. The word of truth, which is the Word of God, points us faithfully to the living truth, Jesus, and as we receive it by faith we come to know Jesus personally and increasingly in our lives.

The second clear benefit is that the truth will make you free. What a wonderful assurance from Jesus, but isn’t this completely different than what the world says? The world looks at God’s Word as out of date and out of sync with reality. Many will look at God’s commandments and say, “They’re so restricting, so limiting, and so boring.” God, though, shows us that it is in knowing the truth that we are set free. **1 John 5:2-4** says, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.” There is a victory for all who believe in Jesus and walk in obedience. At the same time, the world offers fool’s gold and tempts us to partake. “Live how you want, love who you want, and do what you want. After all, it’s your life and you deserve to be happy. It’s your body, your choice, and your will, do whatever pleases you.” So many of us have bought into that lie and given in to the temptation, and we have found that there may have been temporary pleasure for a moment, but there was never satisfaction or fulfillment. We may have felt free to do whatever we wanted, but in partaking of that it only brings bondage. Instead of true unending joy, it leaves us with guilt, shame, pain, and blame. It is not until we truly look to Jesus, trust in Him, and begin to follow Him that we experience freedom from all that the enemy placed upon us. Brothers and sisters, if we are going to live in victory today, we must look to Jesus and make His Word the priority that it ought to be!

II. The Power of God’s Word (vs. 33-45)

Jesus is describing a freedom that nothing else in this world can provide, and the key to this freedom is the Word of God. **Psalm 19:7a** declares, “The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul.” Only God can save and restore our souls, and it is through His Word and response to it that He brings about this change. However, before God’s Word can restore, it has to first confront the wrongs we have committed and the lies that we have believed. This, though, is very uncomfortable and in our human nature we want to reject it, but there can be no change where there is no acceptance of reality. ****ILL:** When you go to a doctor you are hopeful for a good report. However, if something is wrong, you don’t want them to ignore it. You want them to confront it. Why? Because you want to live. You want to be well. Similarly, God’s Word first confronts the issues in our lives that need to be addressed and brings us both the instruction and invitation to respond with repentance. We see that plainly in our text.

In **verses 33-45**, we see a back-and-forth discussion between the Pharisees and Jesus. To put it mildly, the religious leaders of the day did not like Jesus’ words. Frankly, they were so proud and

sure of themselves that they could not see the reality of their spiritual condition. Their response to His Word told Jesus all He needed to know, but it also serves as a powerful example and warning to us today. As Jesus addresses the self-righteous leaders, He confronts three things:

A. God's Word Confronts the Denials of Man

As soon as Jesus promises freedom, the religious crowd immediately responds defensively. "What are you talking about Jesus? We are Abraham's descendants, and we have never been enslaved to anyone." It is easy to understand why they were so defensive. The Jewish leaders placed their hope in their patriarch, Abraham. They believed that they were in a right relationship with God because they were part of the race whom God had chosen to be His people. They assumed that since Abraham was right with God, and because God had given them His Law, then they must automatically be in good standing with Him also. Not only did they have their hope in their patriarch, but they also put their hope in their pristine past. Like those who idolize "the good old days," they dismissed the reality of their situation. They claimed that they'd never been enslaved by anyone, but even a quick study of Jewish history proves that this was a lie. Their whole history was a long story of bondage. They had been slaves in Egypt when Moses came to set them free, and for the greater part of the book of Judges they had been in bondage to seven different nations. They were also exiled to Babylon for 70 years. Throughout their history, they had been in bondage under the Greek, Syrian, and Egyptian people for centuries, and eventually Rome took over. In other words, in a defensive posture, they had deceived themselves into thinking that things were fine. They had clearly been enslaved in bondage, but it was very difficult for proud, religious people to admit their faults and their need for the freedom that Jesus offered.

Jesus, though, explains that the bondage He is talking about is the bondage of sin. Everyone who lives a lifestyle of sin, who continually practices sin, is the slave of sin. Everyone who has sinned against God stands guilty and condemned before Him. Without repentance of sin and faith in Christ, we still live in our fallen, sinful nature. Not even the best of us can undo its stronghold in our life. Not even the best of us can change on our own. Not even the best of us can save our soul and bring about spiritual freedom. The religious leaders thought they were fine because they outwardly kept the law, but Jesus was showing them that inwardly, their hearts and lives were still full of sin, and even though they couldn't see it in the moment, their inward pride and self-righteousness was now leading them to outward actions that were clearly not of God. Jesus says it plainly, "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My Word has no place in you." In essence, Jesus is saying, "You think you love God and follow Him but at the same time, you are seeking to kill Me. Why? Because you have denied and rejected My Word." When man denies the Word of God, there is no limit to how low he can go.

Friend, examine this in your own life for a moment. You may feel close to Jesus and know a lot of things about Him, but how are you responding to God's Word? Specifically, how do you respond to God's Word when you hear something you don't like, don't want, or don't feel? How do you respond when God says something that you don't see? Do you harden your heart and resist, or do you humbly receive it and respond accordingly? God's Word transforms, but it first confronts our denials.

B. God's Word Confronts the Deeds of Man

Jesus continues to explain their situation. He is speaking about the things that He has personally seen from God the Father, but He also calls out the Pharisees for doing the things that they had also heard from their "father." Immediately, they speak up, "But Abraham is our father. We come from him. Our foundation is secure in him." And, again, Jesus calls out the truth, "Well, if you are Abraham's children, then do the deeds of Abraham." Remember, Abraham lived with his father in the land of Ur of the Chaldeans when God called him to leave his homeland and follow Him to a land that He would show him. Abraham believed in God and surrendered to God's plan. This began a lifelong journey of following God. In fact, throughout his whole journey, we see Abraham's deeds in three ways – hearing, believing, and obeying the word of God. Abraham did not always get it right, but the continual process of his life was to hear, believe, and obey God's word. In fact, our opening verse in James 2 is followed up by an illustration of Abraham's faith in God. **James 2:23** says, "And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,' and he was called the friend of God." These were the deeds of Abraham. He heard the word of God, received it, believed it, and obeyed it, and as such was considered a friend of God. These are the same deeds that the Pharisees should have committed. The Pharisees declared that God was their father, but Jesus knew the truth and His Word revealed the truth of their deeds. If they loved God, they would love Jesus because Jesus was the only begotten Son of God. At the least, they would have loved Jesus like a close brother, but instead they were conspiring together, doing everything they could to kill Him and get rid of Him. Jesus was fully aware of what they were doing, and His Word confronted them in it.

The same is true in our lives today. God's Word always confronts and reveals our deeds. **John 3:20-21** says it well, "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." The Pharisees should have followed so closely that they were considered friends of God, but their denial of His Word and their sinful deeds revealed that they were enemies instead. Let me ask you, "What do your deeds today reveal about your relationship with Jesus?" Jesus said in **John 15:14**, "You are My friends *if* you do what I command you." As you consider your response to God's Word today, are you a friend of Jesus or a foe?

C. God's Word Confronts the Desires of Man

This final statement shows us just how far the Pharisees were willing to go to do whatever was necessary to get rid of Jesus. What were Satan's desires? Jesus said in **John 10:10a**, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." **1 Peter 5:8b** warns us that our adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Jesus confronts them, "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him...he is a liar and the father of lies." Jesus is saying clearly that they wanted to do the same thing that Satan wanted. They were lying and deceiving, doing whatever it took to try to get rid of Jesus and hinder others from following Him. In their constant attempts to deceive others, however, they were truly only deceiving themselves. They were so blind to the reality of their true condition that they would soon accuse Jesus of having a demon within Him and would even be convinced

that they were right, but Jesus' words cut through their accusation. Who was lying and deceiving? It wasn't Jesus. Who was trying to kill and destroy? Again, it wasn't Jesus. Who was rejecting God's Word? Again, it wasn't Jesus. Do you see how Jesus' Word exposes and confronts the hidden thoughts and intentions of man? The truth is that God's Word still does the same in our own lives today as well. **Hebrews 4:12-13** explains, "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. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

Jesus is the living Word of God, speaking aloud for all to hear and turn to God. His Word exposed their denial, their deeds, and their desires, but we must not just look at this passage of Scripture merely as the rejection of the Pharisees. We must look at this passage in light of where we stand before God today. Let me ask you, "Have you truly received God's Word by faith, or do you find yourself debating, dismissing, and denying it? What is God's Word revealing today about your deeds and actions? Are you living in obedience to God so that your life is pleasing to Him, or are you living for yourself according to your own will and ways? What is God's Word revealing about your thought life, your motives, and your intentions? Are they pleasing to the Lord? Does your life demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, or are the works of the flesh continually on your heart and mind?" God's Word convicts us and draws a line in the sand, calling us to turn from sin and turn to the Savior. Despite all of their animosity towards Jesus and their desire to lie about Him and even kill Him, Jesus still desired for them to repent and believe in Him. He asked in **verse 46a**, "Which one of you convicts Me of sin?" In other words, do you find any fault in Me? Is there a single sin that you can identify in My life? Surely if they had evidence of sin, this was a great opportunity to bring it forward, but not even His strongest adversaries had any real offense against Him. So, Jesus asks, "If I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me?" Don't you hear Jesus' pleading? "It's not too late guys, you can turn from your sin and trust in Me! You can know the truth and be set free! You don't have to be a slave in your sin because through faith you can become a true child of God!" We get a glimpse of this burden in **Matthew 23:37** as Jesus is giving the eight woes to the scribes and Pharisees. As He describes their blind spiritual condition Jesus says, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling." Even as He pleaded with the Pharisees then, He is still pleading with many today. **2 Peter 3:9** says, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." God's Word convicts us of sin and draws us to a realization that we need Jesus, but we must respond. He is not willing for any to perish, yet many will because they reject His Word.

III. The Proof of God's Word (vs. 46-47)

I close quickly with this final point, but it is perhaps the most important. Our response to God's Word isn't merely a choice in the day-to-day moments of life. How we respond to God's Word indicates something very important about us. Jesus says it plainly in **verse 47**, "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason, you do not hear them, because you are not of God." Jesus shows us that our response to His Word can go one of two ways, but we must choose wisely because how we respond reveals the truth of where we stand with Him.

A. Our Reception of God's Word Proves Our Relationship with Him

We come to faith in Jesus Christ by hearing His Word and responding by faith. This is outlined in **Romans 10:9, 13, 17**, "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...for 'Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved'...So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ." Those who truly receive the Word of Christ respond by faith and obedience, and this is not simply a fleeting momentary thing. If it is true in our lives, it will be evident through a lifestyle of faith and obedience. This doesn't mean that we never stumble or sin, but it does mean that we receive His Word by faith and continue to walk in it. Salvation begins the moment of confession of faith in Jesus as Lord, but the ongoing process of walking with Jesus strengthens this relationship. Remember what Jesus said back in **verse 31b**, "If you continue in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine." The evidence of genuine salvation is that we prioritize the Word of God and make it the foundation of our relationship with Him. As God's Word gets into our hearts and lives, He transforms us from the inside out.

B. Our Rejection of God's Word Proves Our Rejection of Him

Sadly, everyone does not receive God's Word. The Pharisees were so close to the things of God. They had ample evidence and instruction to show them that Jesus was true, but their hearts were hardened by pride, and they refused to receive His Word. They thought that they were simply rejecting what Jesus was saying, but they failed to see that they were actually rejecting God Himself. Friends, be careful with how you respond to God's Word. When we come to the place where we debate God's Word, dismiss portions of it, or deny it altogether, God's Word stands as a witness against us about where we truly stand. Jesus says it plainly, "You do not hear them, because you are not of God."

Many that day missed their opportunity to be right with God, but it is not too late for us here today. We can receive His Word by faith, repent of sin, and renew our devotion to the Lord and His Word. I don't know how you came in here today, but I pray that we each leave with a love and devotion to Jesus and His Word. May we commit to it and continue in it all the days of our lives!