

## **When the World Comes Against Us**

### **A. The Weapon of the World is Words**

***“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful (everything is owed you), unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good...”*** (2 Timothy 3:1-3)

### **B. Their Words Should Never Hurt Us**

***“And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”*** (1 Peter 3:13-17)

### **C. What Do We Use As A Defense?**

***“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”***  
(Colossians 4:5-6)

1. Don't explain the word – preach and proclaim it.
2. An attitude of grace precedes the use of scripture (salt).
3. The world gives you lies in anger.
4. You “speak the Truth in love” (Ephesians 4:14, Proverbs 15:1).
5. Those who despise you will try to pull you in on their side.
  - a. You are not a psychologist. Don't try to be.
  - b. You are not a debater. Don't try to be.
6. Use the word. Pull them to your side. Let them be ashamed (embarrassed).
7. With the attitude of grace say, “it is written.”

8. Jesus spoke to most of His critics in love with the word.
  - a. He only spoke in anger after many unfruitful confrontations (Matthew 23).
  - b. The same with John the Baptist (Matthew 3:7-12).

#### **D. God's Word Needs No Outside Proof of Defense**

***"As it is written: 'There is non righteous, no, not one.'" (Romans 3:10)***

1. God exalted His word above Himself. No one is higher.
  - a. *Something* is higher, His Word has been exalted.
  - b. *"When He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself..." (Hebrews 6:13)*
2. If the Word wants to prove something, it quotes itself.
3. Every idea, philosophy, and religion are beneath the Word.
4. Who can add to God's person or what He has written?
  - a. Old Testament says 2150 times, "thus saith the Lord."
  - b. New Testament says 51 times, "it is written."
5. The word does not defend that it is written by God. It assumes it as fact as we do the theory of gravity.

#### **E. Jesus Quoted Word About Himself and His Ministry**

1. If you don't believe what Jesus said about the Word then you won't believe what Jesus said about Himself.
  - a. He declared Himself to be the revealed Word of God.
  - b. He said He fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about Himself (Hebrews 10:5-7).
2. To verify He was the Son of God, He quoted the Word.
3. As a young boy of twelve, He spoke of His mission in the temple which was to do the will of His Father.
4. At the introduction of His public ministry, He spoke to His hometown in the synagogue.
  - a. He announced to sinners and saints, the scripture He was reading from was fulfilled in their ears that day. He used Isaiah 61 as His only proof of being Messiah.
    1. He knew how to find the text from Isaiah though it had no chapter and verse separations.

2. He was well accomplished in handling the verses. He quoted Isaiah because He wrote it.

b. At the introduction of His ministry, He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by Satan.

1. Satan tempted Jesus three times to follow him.

2. Jesus responded with three quotes from Deuteronomy.

3. At every attack He said, "It is written."

i. If Jesus could say "it is written" so can we.

ii. Quoting the word is using the sword of the Spirit.

iii. To say, "it is written," we must *know* it is written.

#### **F. Jesus Quoted the Word to Believers and Unbelievers**

1. Jesus defended taxes from the law as giving to God the things of God and to Caesar, the things of Caesar.

2. In marriage and divorce, He went back to Genesis 2, teaching that the two become one.

3. He explained to the Jews He was eternal God.

a. "I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the God of the living not of the dead... Before Abraham was, I Am.

b. I.E., "Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, are alive, not dead.

4. Jesus quoted the word on His resurrection day.

a. He joined two men on the road to Emmaus and spoke of His resurrection from the Old Testament.

b. He showed Himself from Moses through the prophets.

#### **G. New Testament Writers:**

1. The Gospels and Epistles:

a. 5 times Matthew quoted, "It is written."

b. 7 times Mark wrote, "It is written."

c. 14 times Luke in his gospel and Acts, "It is written."

d. 7 times John (gospel and epistles), Revelation, "It is written."

e. 17 times Paul used only proof needed, "It is written."

- f. 1 time Peter said, "It is written."
- 2. The word has been twisted. But it cannot be changed (2 Peter 1:16, 20-21).
- 3. Man's wisdom, religion, and philosophy will end.
- 4. The word, properly handled as your defense, is eternal.
  - a. *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away"* (Matthew 24:35).
  - b. *"The word of God lives and abides forever"* (1 Peter 1:23).

#### **H. If The World Challenges You, Let the Word Defend You**

- 1. The world compels us to answer according to world religions, philosophies, political, and popular views.
- 2. There is no higher standard in our life than God Himself and His word.
- 3. "It stand written" need nothing else.