

## **Lesson 14 – Who Has the Last Word?**

(Ask the student, who has the last word in a children's class?) The teacher. (...in a job?) The owner. (...in a court of law?) The judge. (...and in our life?) Of course, God. Let's go deeper into the topic.

(Read Psalm 119:73 and 100:3) (Ask the student, What do these verses tell us about our relationship with God?) It is God who made us. Therefore, God knows us better than we know ourselves. No matter what scientific advances may come, God, from the beginning, knew everything before men discovered it.

The manufacturer that makes a product, like a watch, a car, or whatever, is the best qualified to publish an instruction manual for the user. Since God made us, only He is qualified to give us "The Instruction Manual for the Human Being." This "Manual" is called the Bible.

(Read Psalm 119:97-105) (Ask the student to say in their own words what this text says.) The person who meditates on God's Word (and keeps it) can know more than their teachers, their enemies, and the elderly who don't know the Bible. The Bible helps us turn from evil ways. The Bible is a light that illuminates the right path in the midst of this world of darkness. Since the Bible has come from our Creator, there is no better source to guide our lives.

### **The Conscience Is Not Enough**

(Ask the student if conscience can be a good guide.) Yes and no, it depends. God has given all of us a conscience to motivate us to do what is good and to avoid what is bad. However, the conscience works according to the instructions it receives. If a girl learns from her parents that it is good to bow before an image of "the virgin," she does not violate her conscience when she does so. The conscience will approve or disapprove according to the instructions it has received. Therefore, it is essential to teach the conscience based on the Bible. (Read Psalm 119:9-11) (Ask the student, what source of information do we need to avoid sin?) The Word of God.

You have to pay attention to your conscience. However, as has been seen, it is necessary to instruct the conscience so that it serves us correctly. Many times our own ideas are useless. (Read Isaiah 55:7-9) (Ask the student: What is the basic problem with our ideas?) We don't think like God thinks. We do not have the same concepts that God has regarding good and evil, regarding how we should live.

### **The Word of God Has the Last Word**

We live for a few years and die, but the world goes on. Empires appear, grow, and disappear, but the world continues. However, there is something that is more enduring than the world. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). But there is more. (Read John 12:48) (Ask the student: What did the Lord say about His Word on the day of judgment?) God's Word will be the basis for the final judgment. Not what I think. Not what you think. No. Judgment will be based on what God thinks.

Thank God, then, that now, in this world, we have His Word to instruct us. (Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17) Timothy had the joy of hearing the Scripture from his childhood, because the Scripture can make us wise for salvation. Scripture instructs us, corrects us, and helps us become the person God wants us to be.

In John 16, Jesus was speaking to his apostles on the night He was betrayed. (Read John 16:12-13) The apostles had been with Jesus for three and a half years. However, Jesus still had a lot to explain to them. (Ask the student, When were the apostles going to receive "all truth"?) When the Holy Spirit came. (Ask the student if they know when this happened.) (Read Acts 2:1-4) On the day of Pentecost, the Apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit. On that day, Peter preached the first message of salvation through Christ Jesus. And from that day, as verse 42 says, the first Christians "continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching."

The Word of God, of Christ, and of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles is our authority – it has the last word. But since we don't have living apostles today, what can we do? Well, even when the apostles lived, they couldn't be everywhere at all times. We have an excellent example in 1 Timothy 3:14-15. (Read) Paul wrote to Timothy so that he would know what he should do in the church. Today, yes, we have the Apostles with us – in the Holy Bible!

No human creed of any church has the last word. No priest, no pastor has the last word. No mother, no grandmother has the last word. No teacher, no professor has the last word. No person who supposedly has a new revelation from God has the last word. I don't have the last word. You don't have the last word. God has the last word, Christ has the last word, the Holy Spirit has the last word, the apostles of Christ have the last word. The Scriptures, the Word of God, the Bible has the last word.

The Bible is our authority, our guide, our light in this dark world. You have to open it, read it, study it, scrutinize it, believe it, meditate on it, and above all, follow it.

### **Questions**

1. What is the first reason why God has the last word? (He is our Creator)
2. What is the limitation of the conscience? (For it to work well, it has to be trained well.)
3. Which human beings have the last word? (the apostles)
4. Are you going to let the Bible have the last word in your life? (\_\_\_\_\_) (Help the student reflect honestly on this question.)