**Maturing in Christ: God’s Word is Authoritative**

**Acts 17:1-15**

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Read Chapter 5 of Taking God at His Word by Kevin DeYoung

**S**ufficiency – God’s word has everything we need for knowing God and for godly living.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 **– “…**from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are for….salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

**C**larity **–** God’s word can be understood by the masses.

Psalms 119:130 **– “**The unfolding of Your words gives light and understanding to the simple.”

**A**uthority **–** God’s word is true, complete, and the final source of authority.

Matthew 4:4 **–** But Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

1. Tyrannical authority is exercised by one or more evil individuals.
2. Oligarchal authority is exercised by a few.
3. Democratic authority is exercised by the people.
4. Inherited authority is exercised by a family.
5. Personal authority is exercised by an individual.
6. God’s authority is absolute and always for His Glory and our good.

Psalm 115:3 **– “**Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.”

John 15:11 **– “**These truths I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”

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1. Let’s take His story to the people.
2. Let’s engage the world with scripture.
3. Let’s trust God to work.
4. Let’s expect trouble.
5. Let’s evaluate all teaching and teachers by the scriptures.

2 Corinthians 12:12 – “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

1 Thessalonians 1:5 – “Our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.”

Hebrews 13:7 – **“**Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.”

**Faith Sheet**

**Main Themes**

~ God’s word is true, complete and the final source of authority. All supposed authority is to be evaluated by God’s word.

~ God’s word is complete, true, and authoritative so we can bank our lives on what He says about Himself, us, and how to live.

**#1- Reviewing This Past Sunday**

**Maturing in Christ: God’s Word is Authoritative**

**Acts 17:1-15**

1. Read Acts 17:1-15. Discuss Sunday’s message with someone.
2. What do you appreciate about the Lord?
3. Why is it significant that the Bereans would not fully trust in Paul and would check the scriptures to see if what he said was true? What does this show us about our listening and following teachers today? (Heb. 13:7)
4. J.I. Packer said, “Our own intellectual competence is not the test and measure of divine truth.” Read Matthew 19:1-6. What was Jesus’ response to those who trusted their own intelligence and emotions? (vs. 4)
5. Praise Him for His complete and authoritative word.

**# 2- Preparing for Next Sunday**

**Maturing in Christ: God’s Word is Necessary   
1 Corinthians 2:1-16**  
**Chapter 6 - Taking God at His Word by Kevin DeYoung**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.
2. How did Paul’s view of the world’s methods and wisdom impact how he proclaimed the Gospel of Christ to others? (vs. 1-5)
3. What are we to totally trust as we share God’s story with others? (vs. 5)
4. What are the differences between believers in Christ and those who do not yet know and treasure Christ? (vs. 6-16)
5. Why is it necessary to share God’s story with others?
6. What does it mean to have the mind of Christ? (vs.16 and see Phil. 2:1-10)