

that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles.

2Peter 3:2

The Apostles' Commands

Jarrold M. Jacobs

Store In My Heart

2Peter 3:11

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

Peter asks a valid question of his readers. It is one that we would do well to consider even today. Each of us understands that the things we have here on Earth, even our own bodies, will not last. Every nation that has ever risen to greatness has eventually fallen to ruins. We see the ruins of great cities across the world. Knowing this, how should I conduct my life?

God has given us a way that will never fail. Through Him we can gain that which will not fall to ruin. Should we put our trust in the failing things of this world, or the unfailing God who gave us life? I know which will be my priority. My allegiance is only for the Creator and Father of all. Will you live your life for God or are you going to engage and serve the failing world?

I can remember not long after I started in my first “full-time” work, I encountered a few brethren who took the position that the “red letters” in the Bible were more important than the “black letters.” In other words, we ought to give greater emphasis to the words Christ spoke on earth than to anything else in the New Testament. To them, the epistles, etc., were of lesser value than Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Perhaps you have heard of people who have taken such a position. Until that time, I had not heard of such a belief. This may seem to have a noble aspect because people wish to place greater emphasis on Christ’s words, but the noble intention has many glaring errors.

First of all, it is a strange position to hold because red-letter Bibles were not published until 1901! What about the people from the 1800s and back to the second century? Were they unable to determine the “important words” because their Bibles weren’t typed with red letters? Second, if the words of Christ (in red letters) have a greater impact than what the apostles said, what about the fact that Christ told them He was not able to tell them everything because they weren’t ready? He then promised the Holy Spirit to come and “guide” them into “all truth” (**John 16:12-13**)? So, the apostles didn’t have all the truth when Christ was on earth, speaking in “red letters”! They did get all of it later (**Acts 2:1-5; Galatians 1:12; etc.**), yet somehow their words are not as important as what Christ said? This is a strange doctrine, indeed.

Not only is it a strange doctrine, but it also contradicts passages like **2Peter 3:2**. Peter told his readers that he wanted them to “be mindful of the words which were



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For Our Information

Joyce Venable has not felt well this past week.

Ruben Keisler is getting approval from doctors for his knee surgery in August.

David & Paula Laubach are both doing much better.

Keep our students, parents & teachers in your prayers as they prepare for the changes this school year will bring.

Classes on Sunday and Wednesday night are halted.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

spoken before by the prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior." He would also later condemn people for twisting Paul's words and put Paul's words on an equal plain with "the other Scriptures," i.e., the Old Testament Scriptures (**2Peter 3:16**). This sounds nothing like what I was told about the importance of the "red letters"! Based on the truth Peter taught, let me ask a few questions.

- Jesus said the words He spoke were the words given to Him by the Father (**John 12:49-50**). Do we now discount the words of Christ as "lesser" than the Father's?
- The job of the apostles was to speak the words of Christ to the world (**Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; John 14:26**). When they did so, how were these words of lesser importance than Christ's? They were Christ's!
- Since the words of the apostles are equated with the words of the prophets of God (**2Peter 3:2**), how can we say they are of lesser value or lesser importance than Christ's?
- Please supply book, chapter, and verse where Jesus (while on earth) gave us: instructions on how to worship, instructions on the organization of the church, instructions on the work of the church, instructions on matters of faith vs. matters of opinion, insight into the conflict between the Jews and the Gentiles and how to be at peace, the meaning of His cross, etc. (Maybe I am seeing some people's motivation for dismissing the "black-letters"! When we dismiss them, we dismiss all of these things as well!)
- Since Deity is actually behind the entire Bible (**2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:20-21**), shouldn't the whole Bible be "red-letter"?

Personally, I find the "red letter" Bibles distracting. I mainly preach out of Bibles that have only black letters. Friends, let us not ignore the words of the apostles, but realize that since these men were Christ's ambassadors (**2Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 6:20**), their words are as authoritative as Christ's when it comes to doctrine and truth! Peter said we need to be listening to the commands of the apostles, and so let's do that and be blessed (**2Peter 3:2**)!

(We may never encounter one of these "red letter" followers, but the reminder to give attention to "all scripture is certainly a needed one in the life of every Christian. Know the Word. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!