

THE HOLY WORD

Despising & Destruction

I. Proverbs 13:13-What does it mean to despise the Word?

A. This is a comparison of opposites; The two words are despise and fear; These words are the opposite of one another

1. To *fear* is to revere, stand in awe, honor, respect; To *despise* is the opposite (dishonor, disrespect, not revere)

B. Despising the Word is not necessarily a hate for the word but a failure to respect/reverence/value it the way you should

1. *Despise*-Hold as insignificant, trample with feet, worthless, make light of, lightly esteemed; To do away with, to set aside, disregard, to slight; To think little of or disesteem; To care little for, regard lightly, make small account
2. There are degrees of despising-In the strongest sense it would be to have the lowest opinion of, to abhor or hate; But in another sense it means to make light of, to hold as insignificant, to care little for
3. *Gen25:34-Esau despised his birthright*-He didn't hate it, but he didn't value it the way he should/made light of it
4. *Mal1:7-The table of the Lord is contemptible*-They're still bringing offerings, but not their best and so it's not that they hate the table of the Lord, but they didn't treat it with the respect that they should have
5. *Ec9:16-Poor man's wisdom despised and his words are not heard*; It's not hated, but people just don't value it
6. *Ob2-I have made you small (insignificant, unimportant) among the heathen; you are greatly despised*; Despised is to be small, insignificant, unimportant

II. Why would have to talk about respect for the Word to believers? Does every believer respect & esteem the Word?

A. Ezekiel 22:8-This is God talking to His people telling them that they are despising/disrespecting His holy things

1. *ERV-You treat my special days of rest as if they are not important; CEV-You show now respect for my sacred places and treat the Sabbath just like it's any other day*
2. Can people of God treat the things of God like they're not important? Even the Word of God like it's not important?

B. The reality is there are millions of people who call themselves Christians who the Word has no place in their lives: They have no time for it, don't read it, don't study it, won't listen to it preached

1. This lack of respect for the Word is more prevalent than we think and it's causing major problems in peoples lives

C. Can you talk about the Word like it's important, but then not demonstrate it's importance in your life-Mt15:8

1. *Rom2:23-AMPC-You who boast in the Law, do you dishonor God by breaking the Law [by stealthily infringing upon or carelessly neglecting or openly breaking it?*
2. Do all saved people say it's Holy? Yes. But do all treat it as holy? No. Could you develop in your reverence and respect for the Word. Yes. What would be the result?

D. Honor for the Word is demonstrated:

1. You don't give attention to what you do not value; *Jer6:19-They didn't give attention to it b/c they did not value it*
2. You apply to what you do not value; *Ez5:6-The people who apply this Word are the ones that it means something to*
3. You don't give place to what you don't value-Mark 7:9-Their traditions had place above the Word

III. There are affects/results of both despising and respecting the Word

A. Your life will rise or fall to the level of respect you have for the Word-You can't disesteem the Word and see no affect

1. Destroy-Ruined, broken, bound; Reward (Shalam)-Pay, make safe, make good, be complete, sound, live in peace
2. *Pr13:13-TL-Despise God's Word and find yourself in trouble. Obey it and succeed; MS-Ignore the Word and suffer; honor God's commands and grow rich; TP-Despise the word, will you? Then you'll pay the price and it won't be pretty! The one who honors the Father's holy instructions will be rewarded; AC-Whoever despises the word and counsel [of God] brings destruction upon himself, but he who [reverently] fears and respects the commandment [of God] is rewarded*
3. Is this verse true? If you believe it is then it's answering questions for what's going on in Christians lives all over the world: If you have no time for the Word, pay little to no attention to it would that affect your life and in what way?

4. Lev26:15-This fear, disease, sorrow, not reaping, defeat, weakness is a result of lack of respect for the Word

B. Psalm 119:92-103-His respect for the Word of God kept him from perishing

1. Delight-Object of delight, enjoyment, pleasant; Perished-Destroyed; Forget-Ignore, cease to care
 - a. Things that are really important to you, you don't forget; If you forgot, something else was more important
2. 94-Sought-Seek with care, require; 95-Consider-Attentive, consider diligently, mark, give heed; 97-Meditation-Devotion, musing, study; 98-They are ever with me (phone); 100-Keep your precepts – This is why he didn't perish

C. Psalm 119:165-Those who love the Word, respect the Word nothing shall cause them to fall

1. *CEB*-The people who love your instruction enjoy peace—and lots of it. There's no stumbling for them; *GNV*-They that love thy law, shall have great prosperity, and they shall have none hurt; *TP*-Great peace and well-being that comes to the lovers of your word
2. Great-Abundant, much, exceeding; Peace-Welfare, health, prosperity, safety, soundness

IV. Why is Proverbs 13:13 true? Why are these the affects of despising/respecting the Word?

A. God has always used His words to do everything – He does nothing apart from His words

1. John 1:1-3-All things were made by The Word and without The Word was not anything made-Ps33:9,Heb11:3
2. John 1:14-He spoke Jesus into existence by putting His words in the mouths of prophets-Gen3:15,Jer23:5,Is9:6

B. When He wanted to do something in the lives of people He'd come with His Word

1. Genesis 12:1, Exodus 3:6-8-The Lord said unto Abraham and Moses – What are they supposed to do with those words? Say them, believe them, act upon them, cling to them not matter what happens
2. God would SPEAK to the prophets of old and the prophets would SPEAK God's Word to the people and they were supposed to speak those words, believe them, act upon them and cling to them no matter what happens

C. These words are your healing, salvation, prosperity, deliverance and it's only by believing and acting on and speaking these words that men can be saved, healed, delivered and victorious

1. You have no time for the very thing that's your answer and so destruction is all that is left for you

D. Matthew 13:15-They are completely unresponsive to the Word and it kept them from their healing and conversion

1. Waxed gross-The word has no affect on them, unreceptive; Dull-Sluggish; Closed eyes-They don't want to see
 - a. Luke 8:15-You keep (keep form possession of) things that are valuable to you – These see the fruit of the Word
2. 2Tim3:16-He wrote this down for us that by these we would be complete/equipped; God has sent you these precious holy words and by them you are to be healed, blessed, victorious-Is55:11
 - a. In giving His Word He's giving you something to think, believe, say, act on because he works through faith
3. You're clinging to that old rugged cross, when you should be clinging to this precious Holy, living Word
 - a. There's a reward for reverencing the Word so much you cling to it