

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

ALL THESE WORDS

By Jeff Sweeten

The only actual way in which one can successfully transfer thoughts is through words. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of the soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). So, as Baruch set about to convey Jeremiah's words from God, he used a sure-fire formula to get the message across. When asked how he had received such a sobering warning, "Baruch answered them, 'He proclaimed with his mouth all these words to me and I wrote them with ink in the book'" (Jeremiah 36:18).

We have God's Word today in a book because "no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation" (2 Peter 1:20). In other words, inspired writers did not paraphrase God's message in order to capture the sense of what He was saying, they merely wrote down His words "as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). Since it is the case that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17), it is to the word of God we must go in order to understand God and what He wants for His creation. This is where it gets interesting. You see, "Pastor John" and "Reverend Jane" have absolutely no authority whatsoever concerning divine matters (including those arrogant titles they love to wear, cf. Matthew 23:8-10). Baruch claimed no authority but credited Jeremiah with the words he wrote. Jeremiah claimed no authority, stating: "the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23), which disqualifies our "think-so" in matters spiritual. Frankly, the only real authority for anything religiously pursued is God's Word.

Inevitably, there will be those who chafe at the prospect that God's Word trumps their tricks. They might even respond to Jeremiah's message (through Baruch) by taking out a knife, cutting it up and throwing it in the fire (Jeremiah 36:23). Of course, this did not make all these words ineffective or obsolete. No, King Jehoiakim came to a violent death, his body was thrown off a Jerusalem wall and he received "the burial of an ass" (Jeremiah 22:19). Maybe we should pay attention to "all these words" instead of relying on "pastors" or "reverends."

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130