

How Much to Accept

Ponder: Are some parts of the Bible irrelevant?

Scripture: "He who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me" (Jn. 13:20, NKJV).

Years ago, I was visiting with a lady about the Bible, the church, salvation, and suchlike. In the course of conversation, I introduced Peter's statement that "baptism now saves you" (1 Pet. 3:21, NASB). She remonstrated, "You're a preacher for the Church of Christ, not the Church of Peter! You shouldn't concern yourself with what Peter said. Just preach the Sermon on the Mount!"

Are the words that Jesus Himself personally spoke the only ones that count? Most of my Bibles have the words of Jesus highlighted in red letters. Are the red-letter words the only ones that matter? If you're a mature disciple of Jesus, you already know better than to fall for that idea. But let's make certain we're equipped to help others avoid that common misconception.

As He sent out the seventy disciples, the Savior Himself said, "He who hears you hears Me, and he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me" (Lk. 10:16). That same principle certainly applies to the twelve apostles who later were sent into all the world, as indicated in Jn. 13:20 (see above). The lady who dismissed 1 Pet. 3:21 didn't realize it, but she was rejecting Jesus! Years later Peter exhorted those to whom he wrote: "you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles" (2 Pet. 3:2, NASB).

The words of the apostles and other inspired men are every bit as inspired and authoritative as the red-letter words of Jesus Himself. How much should we accept? All of it!

Hymn: "How Precious is the Book Divine"

Prayer: Father, help us to live by every word that has proceeded from Your mouth. In Jesus' name, Amen.