

SERMON OUTLINE/NOTES

"Words of Life, Words of Death, Part 2"

John 6:65-71 (Psalm 73:1-28)

Introduction

- Trouble and tribulation – a time of purging
- Many will declare the words of life in the Gospel of Jesus Christ are words of death and depart the faith, whether formally or just in their heart

Words of Life, Words of Death – Depart or Remain Steadfast? – Three Responses to the Sweet Smelling Words of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (vs. 65-71)

- 1) Depart the Faith (vs. 65-66)
 - Not given to Jesus by the Father – not true believers (v. 65)
 - Not able to understand and accept the truths revealed in the Scriptures, the Bible (Romans 8:7)
 - Saving faith not given to them in the hearing of the Gospel message (James 1:17-18)
 - Departure Permanent (v. 66; Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21; 1 John 2:19)
 - Unable to repent; will not repent (Hebrews 6:4-6; 12:16-17; see also, Revelation 9:20-21; 16:9, 11)
- 2) Remain in the Faith with true faith (vs. 67-69)
 - The 12 disciples asked by Jesus if they will also depart (v. 67)
 - Not for His benefit but for the disciples'
 - Peter responds on behalf of the 12 disciples (vs. 68-69)
 - Believe and are sure Jesus is the Promised Messiah (v. 69; Psalm 73:25)
- 3) Remain a follower of Jesus for own benefit (vs. 70-71)
 - Judas – a "devil" (v. 70; John 13:2, 27)
 - Jesus not fooled by Judas' fake faith (John 17:12; Acts 1:16-19)
 - A wolf in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15; Jude 1:12-13)

Conclusion and Application

- Many Judases today promoting their own evil & rebellious agendas under the guise of Christianity – another gospel accursed of God (Galatians 1:8-9)
- How will we respond to duress & hardships in time of trouble and tribulation? – Sell out or remain steadfast with true faith and patience grounded in the sure hope found in Jesus alone
- Only by the power of the Holy Spirit will we be able to declare as Peter did, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of Living God."