**Week 4: The Word (Scripture’s Authority)**

* Ended last week with John 6:66-69… “You (Jesus) have the words of eternal life”... I think this begs the question… so what do we do with His words?! *How* are they eternal life for us? And like we asked last week, do our hearts cry out that His words are all we want?! (So important that we are not like the Pharisees in John 5:39-40).
* Main passage: John 8:30-47
  + He promised last lesson that following Him (and losing your life)=finding life; here he promises following the Word=finding life
  + ^^along with this compare verses v 31 & 32 (and Jn 17:17 clarifies the Word is the truth) and verse 36
  + Both bullet 1 & 2 show comparison between Jesus and the Word… John 1:15,14
  + V47 The one who is of God (“saved”) listens… the one who doesn’t listen to God’s word tries to kill him (v 37)... there really isn’t a middle ground. Either you listen or you don’t. Either you bow to God or you don’t. Either you kill the flesh or you “kill” God.
  + Lest we think listening is simply “hearing”.... James 1:21-22. The Word, **living** in us and through us, saves us. Craziness! How is this not ‘legalism’?.. John 5:38-40 gives a picture, as does the disciples’ **actions** in Jn 6:66-69.
    - John 5:38-40… notice the role of believing, then the Word being in us follows; all about coming to Jesus which is consistent with the rest of Scripture and what we’ve seen so far in Jesus’ teachings to repent and follow Him (this is what belief does!).
    - Jn 6:66-69… they NEVER leave Jesus! This is the key. Giving ourselves to Him and receiving Him (and His word because a person’s words are so intricately tied to who they are) is eternal life. Not legalistic, a free gift to receive! Upon receiving, the living of it flows out of us through the Spirit!

As we’ve seen through what Jesus says, our genuine receiving of the Word is the difference between life and death, between freedom or enslavement. The Word is our highest authority and we’d do well to follow it with all our hearts.