

## Following the Word

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July 1973



*Photo date and location unknown*

There is much confusion within the Christian world as to whether the Bible is the infallible "Word of God" or not. Are we to take everything the Bible says literally, or are some parts meant to be taken metaphorically? To answer this question, let us consult the Bible itself to see what it says the "Word of God" is.

In John 1:1-3 it says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made."

This description of the Word reveals three things; The Word is God, was with God in the beginning, and created all things. If we say the Bible is the Word of God, that is the same as saying the Bible is God Himself, which is idolatry -- worshipping a creation of paper and ink, not the living God and Creator. The Bible is the record of God's working with man, a guidebook to teach the truth of God. However, if all things were created through the Word, then God's Word is the truth of the whole universe, not just of the Bible. That is why we must integrate religion and science to get a complete understanding of God and his Word.

Through science, we know that God is a God of order, law, and harmony. Seen in that context, much of the apocalyptic passages in the Bible must be seen to be metaphorical rather than literal. At the same time, however, the deep thread of meaning which flows throughout the Bible is revealed so much more clearly when it is seen in the context of the Principles of Creation. The primary lesson that the Bible teaches us, if we see it as a whole, is that God has predestined His providence to lead to the salvation of man and the restoration of the cosmos -- but that much depends upon man's portion of responsibility as co-creator and Lord of Creation.

The Bible teaches that the road to Salvation has been one fraught with struggle, tragedy, and failure. We can never be so complacent as to sit back, as many Christians do, with the "faith" that they will get raptured up into heaven if they only believe, while the rest of the world goes to Hell. When the Judgement comes, it will fall most heavily on those Christians who have trusted only in the written word of the Bible, rather than in the Living Word of God, which is constantly growing and developing, revealing New Truth to man.