

*What is “the faith once for all delivered”?*

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**Introduction:** Can we know what God’s will is and should we stand for it?

A. The Bible has not changed but many of my brethren have. This very thing also happened in the 1<sup>st</sup> century church. **(Jude 3-4)**

1. Before the close of the NT many were abandoning the foundation laid by the apostles. Do not be surprised if this is faced by your generation!

2. We must clearly know how God has spoken and what He has spoken

B. Consider how some attempt to intimidate brethren who wish to stand upon what God delivered.

1. One preacher, rather than showing from the Bible what to believe instead quoted many theologians and made disparaging remarks about brethren.

2. Recently one of this man’s disciples enthusiastically shared this quote:

“God said it, I believe it, that settles it”...Uhhh...no...God said it, someone translated it into your language divorcing it from its own culture, you read it with a preconceived belief lens, then interpreted it and became convinced in your heart you knew what meant even though it bore no resemblance to the original audience or culture it was spoken into to begin with...”

3. This study proclaims that the Bible was not authoritative! It proclaims you cannot understand without the help of other men!

4. The purpose of this study is to let Jesus and His apostles show us how to respect and understand His will. **(Eph 3:3-5; 5:17)**

5. Please do not let men take your Bible from you!

***I. Our God made it very clear that He was making a special delivery of His word***

A. Consider the emphasis in the ministry of Jesus towards handling God’s will.

1. Jesus would only do those things that He saw the Father do. Without instruction He would do nothing! **(Jn 5:19-20, 30)**

2. Jesus wanted His followers to understand authority and to follow the Father just like He did. He wanted others to test doctrine! **(Jn 7:16-17)**

3. The respect for the words of God would lead Jesus only to act when the Father gives Him instruction. This stand would lead Jesus to the cross and us to be free from sin! **(Jn 8:28-32; 12:32-33)**

4. Jesus showed how we must empty ourselves and follow Him. When we do as Jesus did then we will honor the Father. **(Jn 12:25-28)**

5. This same attitude was to be expected of all us whom this precious word would be delivered! **(Jn 12:48-50)**

B. This word was delivered through the apostles and prophets.

1. This carefully delivered message would not be added to by Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Apostles as it was delivered! **(Jn 16:12-13; Eph 3:3-5)**

2. This word was to be perfect and thus was to transcend culture, nationality and changing times. **(Acts 17:30-31)**

3. God gave a “form of doctrine” through the Apostles that was for all who are baptized into Christ. **(Rom 6:17-18, Acts 2:38-39)**

4. This word is called “the faith” and the “apostle’s doctrine.”  
(Acts 6:7; Jude 3; Acts 2:42)
5. The early church carefully stayed within the apostle’s doctrine. If they had no instruction from them then they did nothing. (Acts 15:23-24)
6. This is how they glorified God! (Col 3:17; 1 Pt 4:11)

## ***II. This message was perfect and it was delivered “once for all”***

- A. Anything that our God does is perfect for its purpose. (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- B. There are perfect events that are “once for all” in that they will never be repeated or added to. (Heb 9:26-28)
  1. Jesus will never need to be born of a woman again.
  2. Our physical death is a one-time event.
  3. Jesus will never have to die for our sins again!
- C. God’s message was completely delivered and need not be delivered again! (Jude 3; Mt 24:35)
  1. We can understand that there are no modern day apostles or prophets.
  2. We are to only build upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets used in the writing of the New Testament. (Acts 2:42; Eph 2:20)
  3. God’s wrath is revealed against those who try to change His perfect, once for all delivered message. (Gal 1:6-9; Rev 22:18-19)

## ***III. God wants us to appeal only to that which was delivered***

- A. How did the early church view the epistles from the apostles?
  1. God showed all the importance of the Apostle’s work.  
(1 Cor 12:28; 1 Thess 2:6; 2 Pt 3:2)
  2. Satan tried to attack genuine apostles while providing counterfeits of his own making. (2 Cor 11:4-5, 13; Rev 2:2)
  3. If Satan can close the writings of the Apostles to the minds of Christians then he has successfully defeated God’s plan
- B. Are we teaching and practicing *only that* which has been delivered?
  1. When the apostles uses the words “tradition, delivered and received” they are speaking of God’s will being delivered. (1 Cor 11:2, 23; 15:3)
  2. To fail to obey the “tradition” delivered from the apostles is to forsake Jesus Christ Himself. (2 Thess 3:6, 14)
  3. When the Holy Spirit gave an epistle given to one church, it could be given to other churches and to other generations with *the full expectation of being understood*. (Col 4:16; 1 Thess 5:27; 2 Pt 1:12-15)

## **Conclusion: Do not let anyone take you captive and close your Bible. (Col 2:8)**

"I consulted the philosophers ... I found them all alike proud, assertive, dogmatic; professing - even in their so-called skepticism - to know everything; proving nothing, scoffing at one another. This last trait ... struck me as the only point in which they were right. Braggarts in attack, they are weaklings in defense. Weigh their arguments, they are all destructive; count their voices, each speaks for himself alone ... There is not one of them who, if he chanced to discover the difference between falsehood and truth, would not prefer his own lie to the truth which another had discovered. Where is the philosopher who would not deceive the whole world for his own glory?" - 18th century philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau