

- (6) word, v. 9. The total character of His revealed will in general and his particular will on specifics.  
Of course, the terms overlap. They are repeated again and again for emphasis. Likely they are not mutually exclusive in much of their occurrend but they are not simply synonyms.

2. Our Message:

- a. Commit yourself to the Word
- b. Let the Word criticise, correct, build you.
- c. Let it be part of your mind and practice.
- d. Let it direct you to worship
- e. Let it lead you to serve.

3. Some observations:

- a. How do we build the spiritual character? Obviously by spiritual means. Use of the Word is the chief of these. Ironically it often is not given that place.
- b. Please note, these terms do not express a legalism. We do not grow by doing but by being. But when we are being, we grow from what makes us be. We are born of incorruptible seed, says Peter, namely the Word of God that lives and abides forever. Being born of it, we thrive in growth from it.
- c. Ultimately all I know for certain about God is what I have in His Word. So in calling me to be attentive to it, the writer is surely not putting down a formalism or an academic but is declaring that the life-giving source may not be ignored.
- d. Of course, we have some who seek to separate Christ from the Word. It cannot be done. To love and obey Him is to love and obey the Word of God.

4. Some practical lessons:

- a. Only the Word can strengthen and teach us in the face of foes and obstacles.
- b. It is not enough that it should merely be read, it must be locked in the heart.
- c. In a sense it must be valued and sought. We go to it, so to speak, it does not go out looking for us.
- d. Its eternal character fills us with assurance of its truth and challenges our hearts to believe it completely.

5. Conclusion: We conclude with John 17:17: "Sanctify them through thy Word...thy Word is Truth."