

**Good**

**knows how to**

**speak to us**

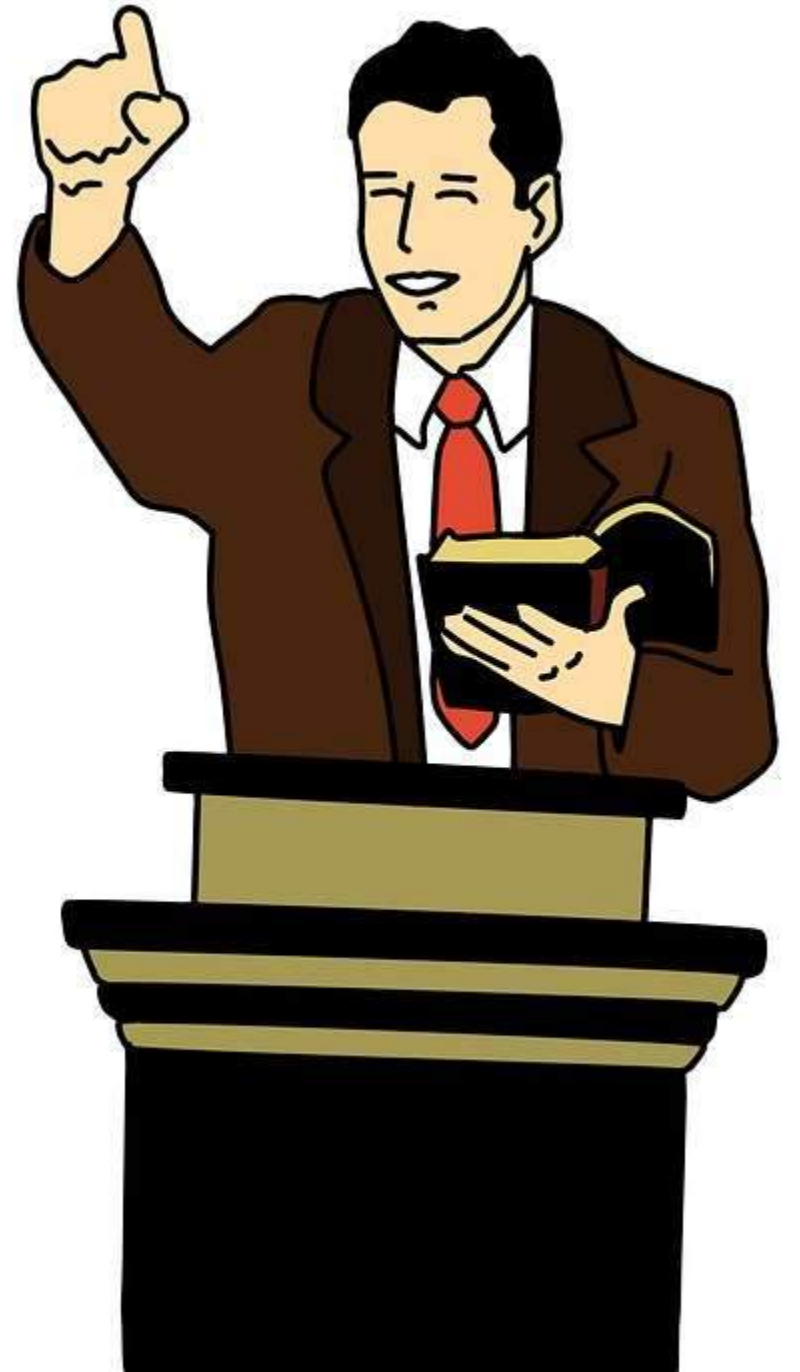
# The Big Challenge

**How to  
understand  
the Scriptures**



# Priests, pastors and theologians


If people with theology degrees contradict each other and misunderstand the Scriptures, how will I understand them?





**Is God's word beyond the reach of the common person?**





What we  
seek

# Practical approaches to Bible study

- Objective: encourage study and application of the Scriptures
- Basic principles:
  - Though the last lines of the Bible were written over 1900 years ago, its message is still valid and relevant
  - Jesus said His word is eternal (Mark 13:31)
  - Peter said the gospel message is permanent (1 Peter 1:22-25)
  - We should pay attention to the messages God revealed to humans

Why do so many  
people avoid  
serious Bible  
study?



# Difficulties in comprehending the Scriptures

- Differences of time: the ancient world was different
- Cultural differences: the Bible was written in Asia and Europe by people from other cultures: Hebrew, Greek, Roman, etc.
- Language differences: written mostly in Hebrew and Greek
- Preconceived notions: caused by centuries of human digression
- Original difficulties: Peter admitted this when he commented about Paul's writings (2 Peter 3:16)

# It would be wrong to give up: God revealed His word for our salvation



- Power to salvation (Romans 1:16-17)
- God desires that all be saved (1 Timothy 2:4)
- God is accessible (Acts 17:27)
- He wants us to seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)
- He sent His Son to communicate with us (Hebrews 1:1-2)



# Your salvation depends on God, not men!



- Popes and priests did not bring the word from heaven
- Pastors did not reveal the truth to the world
- God has spoken to all of us!

# God has spoken to all of us!



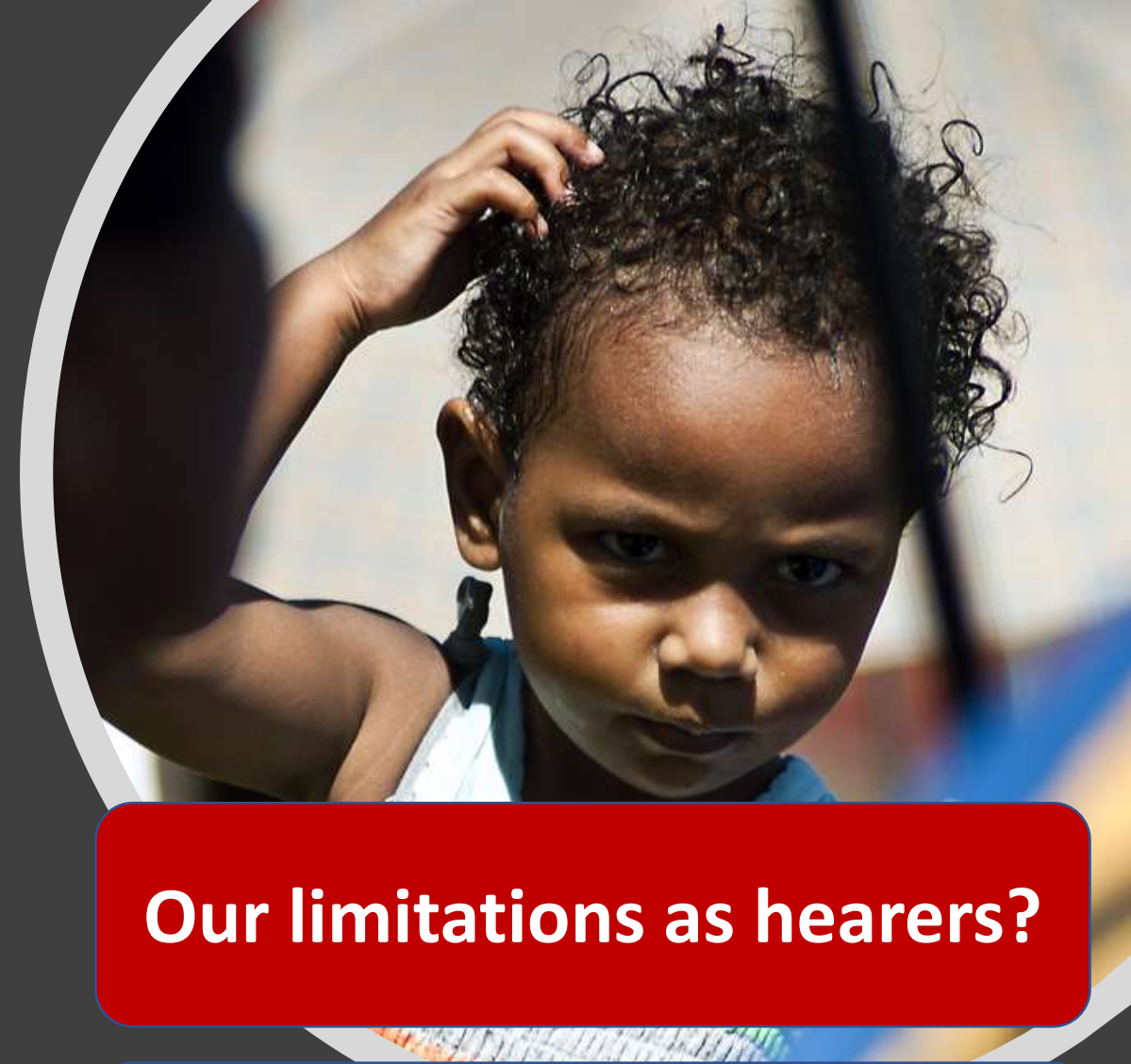
- God created us capable of understanding words and communicating verbally
- He revealed Himself through words
- To say that the Bible is incomprehensible is to deny God's power to communicate with the humans He created!

**God**

**Knows How to Speak**

# We need interpretations

- Foreigners: other languages
- Professors: difficult vocabulary
- Children: difficulty in enunciating words



**Our limitations as hearers?**

**The speaker's limitations?**

*Do we need  
people with  
theology  
degrees to be  
able to  
understand  
God's will?*

## The understanding of the Scriptures

- Different interpretations lead to conflicts and divisions
- Many teach complicated systems of hermeneutics
- These approaches may clarify or confuse as they defend certain doctrinal tendencies

I do not deny the need for our effort to understand the Scriptures

But let's focus first on the divine side of the question

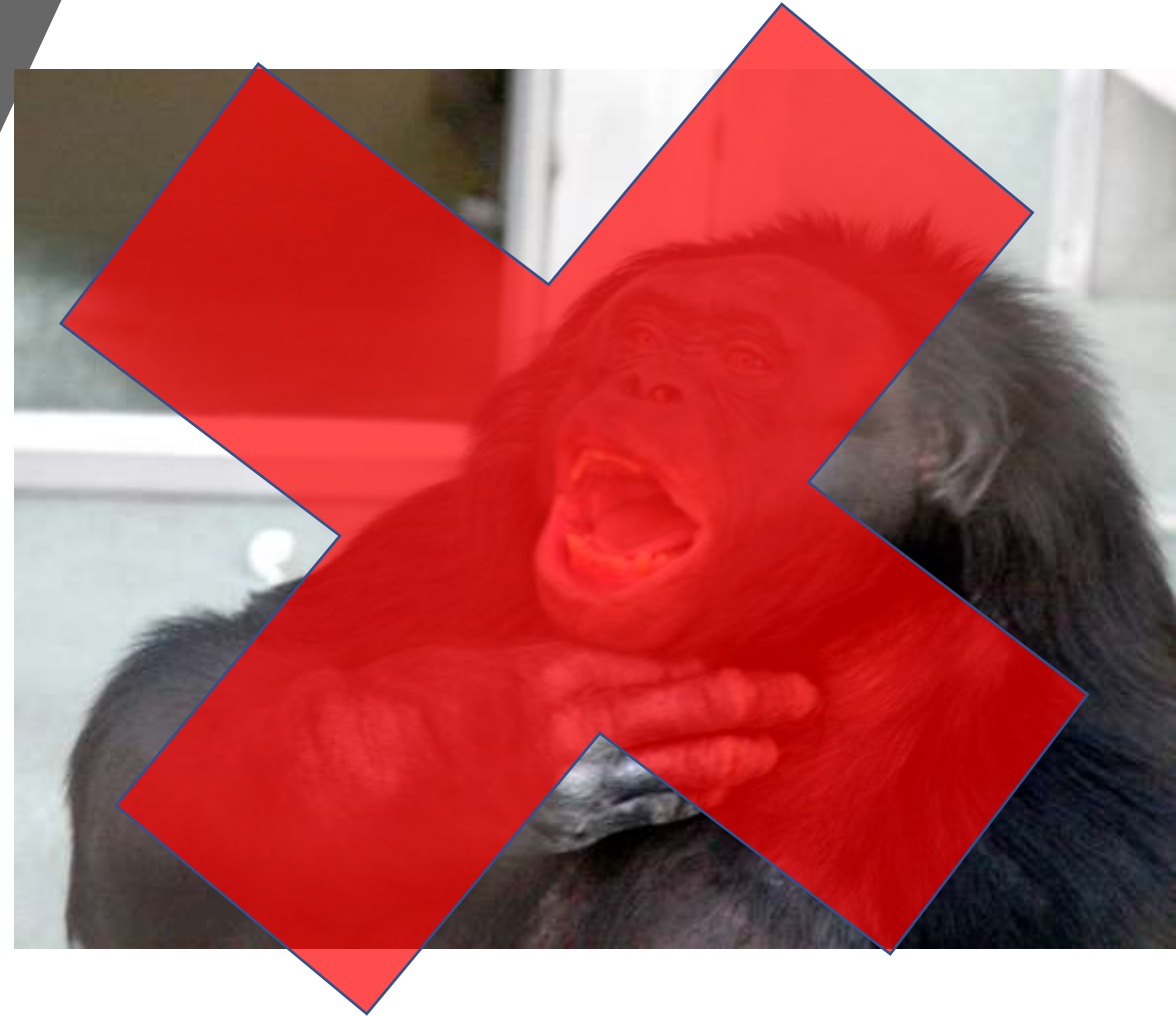
**God is capable of communicating with the humans He created**

**God**

**Knows How to Speak**

# The capability to communicate verbally was given to humans by their Creator

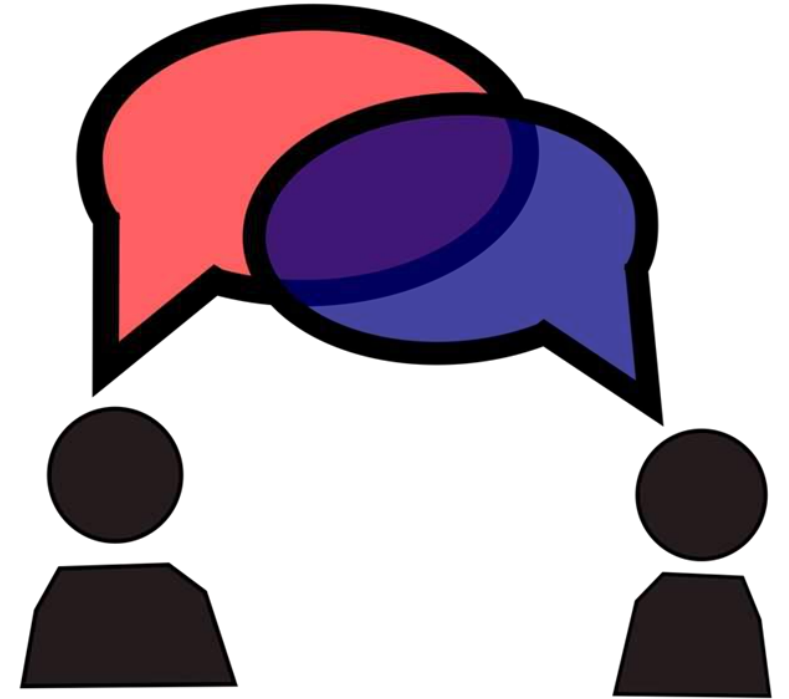
- On the day that He created the first couple, He spoke to them
- God speaks in terms that we are capable of understanding
- Let's look at what God said to arrive at some important conclusions





# What did God say?

- He used words to communicate responsibilities, permission, prohibition and consequences
- Later, He punished their disobedience (Genesis 2:17; 3:23)
- God, being just, demanded obedience and punished them, so it is evident that the couple understood!
- Eve erased all doubt (Genesis 3:2-3)
- Even when God communicated through messengers, He expected obedience and punished disobedience (Hebrews 2:2; 10:28)



**Genesis 1:28-30**  
**Genesis 2:15-17**

# **God Knows How to Speak**

God, the Creator who gave language to humans, spoke to these creatures since the very first day of human existence

**God knows  
how to speak in  
terms we can  
understand!**



**Facts to  
remember**

- **Understanding the Scriptures requires effort**
- **But we should not think that the task is impossible or that God is inaccessible**
- **He created humans capable of understanding verbal communication**
- **He has communicated with these creatures ever since the first day of their existence**



**God spoke to all of us**



How did God  
speak in the  
beginning?

- **The first words were spoken directly on the day He created Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:27-31; 2:15-17)**
- **In the generations after Adam, God spoke directly to several others:**
  - **Noah (Genesis 6:13)**
  - **Abraham (Genesis 12:1; 17:3,9,15,19; 22:1-2)**
  - **Jacob (Genesis 28:13; 35:1)**
  - **And others**



He also used  
messengers

2 Peter 1:16-21

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- **Angels (OT & NT)**
  - The word means Messenger
  - It can be a human Messenger
  - More commonly: messengers sent from heaven
  - Angels are mentioned from Genesis to Revelation
- **Prophets (OT)**
  - Predicted the future? Yes
  - Primarily preached relevant messages
- **Apostles and prophets (NT)**
  - Predicted the future? Yes
  - Primarily announced the gospel message

**God gave  
proofs to  
confirm  
these  
messages**

- **Fulfillment of prophecies (detailed and exact)**
- **Miraculous signs** (Exodus 4:8; Hebrews 2:4; 2 Corinthians 12:12)
  - **Moses in Egypt**
  - **Elijah in Israel and Phoenicia**
  - **Paul in Asia and Europe**
- **The word always above the signs** (Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Galatians 1:6-9)

Even when  
God used  
messengers,  
He expected  
the hearers  
to obey  
(Hebrews 2:2;  
10:28)

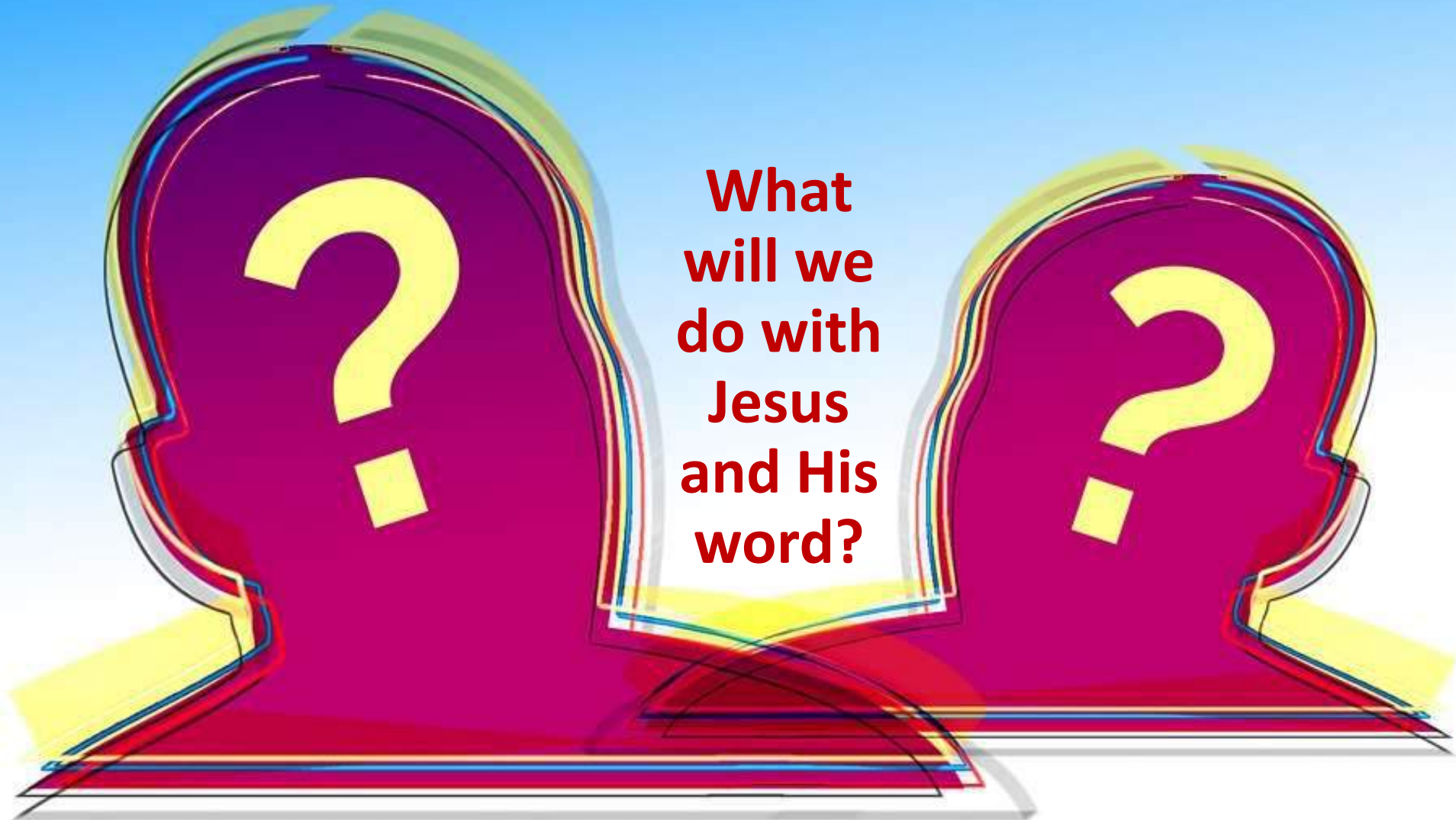
- Today, we have the superior covenant of Christ (Hebrews 8:6)
- The Son's word is weightier (Hebrews 2:2-4)
- Jesus was clear (John 12:48)
- Paul reinforced this teaching (Acts 17:30-31)
- The New Testament message was not revealed only for Jews or only for Christians. It is for all nations!





**God, through His Son, Jesus, revealed  
His word for all of us!**

That leaves us with a very important question to answer...



**What  
will we  
do with  
Jesus  
and His  
word?**