

*Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my
heart Be acceptable in Your
sight, O LORD, my rock and
my Redeemer. Psalms 19:14*

Store In My Heart **Acts 20:32**

*And now I commend you to God
and to the word of his grace,
which is able to build you up and
to give you the inheritance
among all those who are
sanctified.*

As Paul gave instructions to the Ephesian elders, he emphasized our dependance upon God's Word. Without the Word we cannot accomplish any of what we must do to be saved. God left this message to make us strong enough to do what needs to be done. With the Word we can conquer any fear or trial that might be in our way. As we go about our daily life, we need to have the Word in our minds so that we are ready for whatever may arise.

But the Word also impresses upon us the need for God in our life. It shows how God works within His children to help them remain faithful in their service unto Him. God's rest is ours if we will use the Word to remain sanctified in His sight.



Faith, Reason, and the Restoration Plea

Michael W. Green

"Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good."
(1Thessalonians 5:20-21 ESVi)

There is a persistent claim that serious thought and biblical faith somehow stand opposed to one another. The history associated with the churches of Christ and the restoration plea—including its emergence as a significant movement in nineteenth-century America—is not a history of faith opposed to serious thought. One remarkable example connects Alexander Campbell with one of the most consequential statesmen of the twentieth century, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George.

Lloyd George was raised in Wales among the churches of Christ. At twelve years old, he was baptized by his uncle, Richard Lloyd, an elder and unpaid preacher at Penymaes Chapel. The congregation had become identified as a church of Christ in 1841, embracing the plea to restore New Testament Christianity. Central to that plea was the conviction that faith and practice must be bound by the authority of Scripture rather than by inherited creeds or ecclesiastical authority (Gaw, 2023, pp. 9–13).

Campbell's influence upon Lloyd George was not an association fabricated by historians. Campbell's writings were part of the environment in which Lloyd George was raised. Lloyd George recalled hearing his uncle read Campbell's writings by candlelight in his shoe shop (Gaw, 2023, pp. 19–20).

In 1923, after serving as Britain's prime minister through the latter years of the First World War and representing Britain at the Paris Peace Conference, Lloyd George toured the United States. At a small dinner in St. Louis, W. Palmer Clarkson, an elder of the Union Avenue Christian Church, spoke with him about his religious background. Lloyd George acknowledged that he had been raised among those churches, noted President James A. Garfield's similar religious beliefs, and then made a remarkable statement:

"I learned all my democracy from Alexander Campbell and Abraham Lincoln."

He immediately added, "Campbell was a great man" ("Lloyd George in America," 1923, p. 792; Gaw, 2023, p. 9).

Campbell himself was far more than an isolated frontier preacher. He was a preacher and student of Scripture, but also an educator, publisher, debater, college founder, and participant in the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829–1830. He

engaged seriously with some of the religious, educational, and political questions of his generation while insisting that religious questions be settled, not by inherited creeds, ecclesiastical authority, or human reason alone, but by reason directed through the Scriptures.

There is an important distinction to make at this point. The intelligence or accomplishments of those who believe something do not make it true. Campbell's influence upon Lloyd George does not prove the truth of Campbell's religious convictions. It does, however, challenge the assumption that serious intellectual inquiry and biblical faith are necessarily opposed. But answering that objection does not establish the truth of Scripture. Its claims must still stand upon their evidence.

Scripture itself asks for nothing less. God's appeal through Isaiah begins, "*Come now, let us reason together*" (**Isaiah 1:18**). When the Bereans heard the message concerning Christ, "*they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so*" (**Acts 17:11**). They were neither commended for believing without examination nor for refusing to believe. Instead, they were commended because they listened, examined, and determined whether what they had heard was true.

That remains an appropriate challenge for believer and unbeliever alike: "*test everything; hold fast what is good*" (**1Thessalonians 5:21**). Biblical faith does not require us to stop thinking. It demands that we examine all things honestly—and then have the integrity to hold fast to what proves to be true.

There is no conflict between thinking deeply and believing firmly. A commitment to biblical authority requires no retreat from serious intellectual inquiry. If what we believe and proclaim is true, careful examination is not its enemy. It is exactly what truth should be able to withstand.

Campbell believed the Scriptures deserved that examination. Lloyd George was raised among people who believed the same. Neither man's intelligence proves that the Bible is true. But neither should one's assumption that biblical faith is intellectually unsophisticated prevent him from opening the Bible and examining its claims for himself.

The invitation of Scripture is remarkably reasonable: "*test everything; hold fast what is good*" (**1Thessalonians 5:21**).

References

Gaw, J. L. (2023). *David Lloyd George: The politics of religious conviction*. University of Tennessee Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/jj.28697797>

Lloyd George in America. (1923, December 13). *The Australian Christian*, 792. <https://ccnswact.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/1923-50.pdf>

(The word of God will always provide truth those who are willing to listen. No matter your intellectual stature, Scripture provides sufficient evidence to convince the honest heart. God gave us life and the instructions we need for living it in a manner that will bring us to Him at its close. Study Diligently. Apply With Purpose. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Sue Soliday has been dealing with an ear infection

JoBeth Henderson will have her last 3 radiation treatments this week. Her immunotherapy will start back next week.

Leta Rivera is moving to Hot Springs Country Club Village Retirement Community at the end of the month

Tommy Robinson is in a Nursing home in Hot Springs

Sunday @ 5 - **Jeremiah 6:16** Wednesday @ 7 - **Luke 3:7**

Gospel Meeting - Michael Green - September 27-October 1

Announcement flyers are in the foyer