"The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.
You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever." (Psalm 12: 6 & 7)

"And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

But they mocked the messengers of God, “despised His words”, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy.” (2 Chronicles 36: 15 & 16)

“Therefore many of His disciples when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”

When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you?” (John 6: 60 & 61)

Most professing believers in Christ are sooner or later “offended” by the Word of God. Webster (1828) defines our Lord’s use of the word “offend” as: “to displease; to make angry; to disturb; to annoy”. Truly, the Word of God is an offense to the flesh of man, as It confronts our own affections and our sins. If you have not been offended by the Word of God, it is only because you have not ventured very far into It’s depths. Of course, there are those who call themselves Christians, and even practice a “form” of religion, who are never “offended” by the Word of God, simply because they do not believe that It “is” His word. These are the ones of whom our Lord spoke in Matthew 7: 21 – 23. They are numbered as “many”. Spiritual rebirth moves man from the class of “many”, to the class of “few”, where our Lord’s words are clearly heard.

“Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” (Matthew 11:6)

The question that I raise in this paper is: Are we “offended” by the Word of God? May we each be granted the grace to search our heart, in light of God’s word, before it is eternally too late. Now is the time, this is the hour, for all who claim to believe in Christ, and are counting on that belief to gain them
entry into His eternal Kingdom, to examine where they stand in relation to His word. After all, it is His word that will judge us on “that day” and determine whether or not we be numbered among the loyalists or the traitors. Clearly, it is written:

“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him -----the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” (John 12: 48)

“Receiving” the Word of God begins by choice in all who are “called” of Him. In other words, each of us has a choice to make as it relates to the Word of God. Webster (1828) defines the word “receive” as used in John 12:48, as follows: “to accept; to embrace; to hold; to welcome; to take in; to believe in.” We can listen to God’s word being read, or read It for ourselves for as long as we live, but until we “receive” It, It is of no value to us. The very same Word that promises life and blessings to man, when rejected, will judge and condemn man. Make no mistake about it, you cannot separate God from His word and expect anything in return but loss of blessing, and eventually death.

In Matthew chapter four, verse four, Jesus Christ made the following statement:

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

The Word of God clearly teaches His people that they cannot “live” life as He desires that they live it, except as they “receive” every Word that He has given them. All of the blessings of God are conditional. Those blessings cover every good gift that we could possibly ask for in this life, and in the life to come (James 1: 17). Any man or woman who professes to believe on Jesus Christ as the Only begotten Son of God, and who believes that they can separate Him from His word and still receive His blessing for having done so, is in God’s eyes “wicked” (Psalm 50: 16 & 17). That being true, I would declare that the modern day church of my generation is well populated with the “wicked”, from the pulpit to the pew. Rare indeed, are those professors who will join the Psalmist and declare:

“You are near, O Lord, and all Your commandments are truth. Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.”

“The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.” (Psalm 119: 151, 152 & 160)

I ask you, dear reader, “Have you made such a declaration before God and man?” If not, are you willing to do so? Until you are willing to “believe God”, as He expresses Himself through His word, you are numbered among those who are facing the wrath of God (John 3: 36 and Romans 1: 18). Make no mistake about it, you cannot believe in Jesus Christ unto salvation, while at the same time rejecting His word as Truth, and expect anything but separation from Him when your days are spent. Is it any wonder that “many are called, but only a few are chosen” (Matthew 20: 16 and Matthew 22: 14)?

In Hebrews chapter twelve, verse fourteen, Father tells us that unless we are pursuing holiness, we will not see the Lord. Webster (1828) defines “pursue” as: “to follow; to follow with a view to overtake; to seek; to follow as an example.” Webster also defines “holiness” as: “the state of being holy; that which is separated to the service of God.” In short, only those who are, in the end, defined
as “pursuing holiness” will see the Lord. All others, regardless of their profession ---- regardless of their religious works ---- regardless of their reputation among men ---- all others ----will be numbered among the “many” who are not chosen to be with the Lord throughout eternity. In light of these words found in Hebrews 12: 14, each of us must examine our hearts, and ask ourselves: Are we offended by Father’s word? Do we believe Him? Are we in agreement with Him?

The prophet Amos, in chapter three, verse three asks: “Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?” Can we “walk together” with Jesus Christ, who alone is Holy, if we are offended by the Word of God ----His word? Is it possible that we could be conformed to His image (Romans 8: 29) and not agree with Him as He expresses Himself through His word? Does Heaven await the arrival of those who knowingly reject or neglect God’s word year after year? Does Heaven await those who do not agree with God’s declaration to man, and who are offended by His word? Can any man or woman expect to enter into Heaven where he or she will see Jesus Christ face-to-face (1 Corinthians 13: 12), who has not believed God, gone through a Spiritual re-birth by Biblical definition, and either consciously or unconsciously pursued His holiness? Can any mortal man be eternally saved, who by thought, by word or deed, treated the Word of God as untrue, and therefore called the One true God ---- a liar?

I challenge every soul into whose hands this paper falls to face these questions soberly ---- before God ---- in fear and trembling. May God forbid that any should read these words and be numbered among those who Peter identified in his second Epistle, chapter two, verses twenty-one and twenty-two. There it is written:

“It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: A dog returns to his own vomit, and, a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

It is my considered opinion, based upon my own personal experience, and of many others that I have observed over the years, that the primary reason man turns away from (rejects) much of God’s word is that It offends them. Man has always been more in love with “self”, and his own, than he has been with God. We may not even realize it, but we want to be our own god. As professors, we claim Christ and all of His blessings, but only on our terms; not according to His word, but according to the dictates of our own heart.

I believe it to be impossible that one can be found pursuing holiness, while at the same time setting aside or rejecting any portion of God’s word. In chapter six of John’s book, we are told that when our Lord’s words “offended” His disciples, they responded as follows:

“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.” (vs. 66)

His own disciples walked with Him no more, because they were not in agreement with Him. They were “offended” by the words that He spoke; and so they followed the dictates of their own hearts, their own affections ---- and they left Him!
Today, some 2,000 plus years later, the situation is no different than it was when our Lord’s feet walked this earth. Most of those who claim to be His followers, are so, in name only. They are not walking with Him. They do not believe His word. They are not in agreement with Him. They are “offended” by the Word of God! They say that they know Him, but when judged by His word they are found to be liars. As it is written:

“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him.

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.” (1 John 2: 3 – 5)

Man’s attitude of heart toward the Word of God, determines God’s attitude of heart toward man. Father’s written record beginning in Genesis and ending in Revelation, is all about what God has “said” to man, and man’s response to what He has said. Sadly, the vast majority of God’s people, those who were exposed to His word and were “professing believers”, were sooner or later offended by His word and suffered the consequences of being so offended.

However, there has always, and is even now, a small (few) remnant of God’s people who’s hearts have been circumcised by the hand of God (Deuteronomy 30: 6); these, and these only, make up the “few chosen” to be with Him throughout eternity (Matthew 22: 14). These “elect” of God are identified in Jeremiah 31: 33 and 34 and in Hebrews 8: 7 - 13, where we read:

“This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying ‘know the Lord’, for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless Deeds I will remember no more.”

We must never forget, if one’s heart has not been tampered with by God Himself, that one is yet to be soundly converted; regardless of their good works, regardless of their commitment to and position in the church, and regardless of their profession of faith in Christ ---- until God alters the heart as it relates to His word ---- that one has yet to be numbered among the “few chosen”. That one is not spiritually reborn, by Biblical definition.

Telling someone that they are “saved” when their heart is not tender toward the Word of God, is to do them great harm and place ones self among liars. Only those of an unsound mind, or who are yet to be spiritually reborn, could possibly believe that a heart that was offended by the Word of God, was a heart that God had circumcised. May God have mercy on those professors who are being led into eternal separation from our Father, all because they were not told the TRUTH. May our God raise up in this late hour, voices that He can trust with His word; voices that have no other agenda than to declare the TRUTH, the whole TRUTH, and nothing but the TRUTH.
Of one thing I am absolutely certain. The relationship between God and man, beginning with Adam right up to you and me, begins with God’s word, and will end with God’s word. We may not understand all that Father has said; and, no doubt we have not lived out our lives in perfect harmony with His word, but that is not the life or death issue for us. Father has, out of His great mercy, made provision for our imperfections through repentance. However, to disagree with God, to be offended by His word, regardless of whether we understand or not, regardless of how hard His word may appear to be to our flesh, is to be most certainly counted among those of whom He is ashamed.

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

I close this paper by asking all into whose hands it falls: “Are you offended by the Word of God?”

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Thomas

“A Definition of Holiness”

“Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind described in Scripture. It is the habit of agreeing in God’s judgment --- hating what He hates---loving what He loves---and measuring everything in this world by the standard of His word. He who most entirely agrees with God, he is the most holy man.”

Bishop J.C (John Charles) Ryle
(1816 – 1900)

"Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you, and you be found a liar."
(Proverbs 30:5 & 6)