"Authority: Who Has the Final Word?"

Pastor Bryan D. Edwards
(bryan@trc.life)

I. _____ has an _____.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

II. _____ isn't determined by what we _____.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

III. Jesus _____Scripture as _____.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

IV. Every _____ must be _____ by God's Word.

Acts 17:11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

V. _____ Word gets the final _____.

Discussion Questions:

1. Before you ever opened a Bible, who or what shaped what you believed to be true? Family, church, culture, your own gut? Can you think of something you once assumed was true that Scripture helped you to re-think?
2. When your feelings, personal experience, or something you've always believed conflicts with what Scripture says, which one are you most tempted to trust? Why?
3. Read Matthew 4:1–11. What do you learn about the way Jesus treated Scripture? What words or phrases in these passages communicate how seriously Jesus regarded God's Word?
4. Discuss why it can be so difficult for someone to reconsider a sincere belief they might have held for a very long time.
5. What's the difference between testing someone's truth claim and judging a person? Many people think those are the same thing. How would you explain they're not?
6. If two people both sincerely call themselves Christians, but have fundamentally different beliefs about God's Word and who Jesus is, can both of those beliefs be true? Why or why not? How can they communicate their differences without sounding arrogant or treating the other with contempt?
7. How do you lovingly tell someone, "I don't think what you believe is biblically accurate," without the conversation immediately becoming an argument? What attitudes, words, or approaches can help keep the conversation both truthful and loving?

Next Week: "Who is God?"