



Committed or Compromising?

"Hey, Carter," called Jack. "Did you enjoy the Adult Bible Fellowship on Sunday? Wasn't it great?" Carter waved back but hesitated to answer. Joining him, Jack went on: "I love that we all get to share our thoughts on a particular passage, don't you? We're thinking about studying that new book about living spiritually. Won't that be great?"

Carter shook his head. Didn't Jack realize that in many instances, discussing "our thoughts on a particular passage" was nothing more than pooled ignorance? Carter remembered hearing some questionable conclusions Sunday, and one out-and-out wrong one. He hadn't said anything because he was a visitor, and he'd thought the discussion leader would say something, but he hadn't. The false statement had gone unchallenged. And studying a Christian book rather than the actual Word of God—what was with that?

"Jack, the people in your Bible study were great, but I'm looking for a church where God's Word has preeminence over man's thoughts and words."

1. Evaluate both Jack's and Carter's conclusions about Sunday's Bible study. With whom do you agree? Why?
2. Is there a place for discussing God's Word or reading and discussing a Christian book? If so, do you think it is at church on Sundays, or at some other time and place? Why?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:14. In light of this verse, what are some dangers with discussing opinions or reading a Christian author instead of reading and studying God's Word?
4. Evaluate the sources you listen to or read when it comes to the Christian life. Do they teach a continuation of "the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of"? Concerning the speakers/authors, do you know "of whom thou hast learned"?

Commit to staying centered on God's Word and helping fellow believers, especially in your church, to do the same.