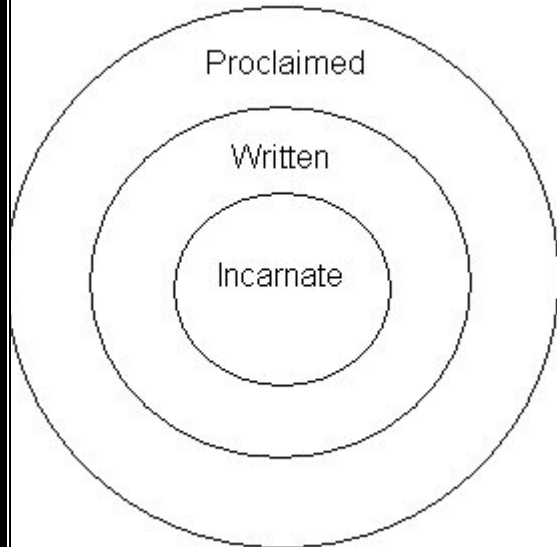


1. The threefold nature of "The Word of God"

- a. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. (Joh 17:14 NRS)
- b. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (Joh 17:17 NRS)
- c. John 17:6 "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word."



John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (Joh 1:1 RSV)

- 2. You as an instrument of the Word of God
 - a. The Word is never s predicate of man/woman
 - b. The Word always remains God's Word
 - c. Only the Word can authenticat/ affirm the Word
 - d. In this creation (Cosmos) the Word is foundational and permanent
- e. How may a man/woman know The Word

The Bible *becomes* the Word of God when it is proclaimed by the living human voice of the Church, and only in that event may the Bible be rightly called the Word of God. God's Word in this event, and in the statement that the Bible is God's Word the little word 'is' refers to its being in this becoming. It does not become God's Word because we accord it faith but in the fact that it becomes revelation to us.

The Word of God therefore is in threefold form, consisting of the past revelation of Jesus, the written human witness in scripture, and the preaching of the Bible in the church's proclamation. The written form of the Word of God does not exist in the bible apart from revelation and proclamation, and likewise proclamation does not exist apart from the written and revealed forms, and lastly the revealed form does not exist apart from the written and proclaimed form.

The revealed Word of God we know only from the Scripture adopted by Church proclamation, or the proclamation of the Church in affirmation of Scripture.

The written Word of God we know only through the revelation which fulfills proclamation or through the proclamation fulfilled by revelation. The preached Word of God we know only through the revelation attested in Scripture or the Scripture which attests revelation.