

# חסידות

Chasidut meaning “pious”

## God’s Word and Truth ... how do we apply it in our lives?

### Part 1

By Duane D. Miller © 2006

We live in the day and age of post-modern philosophy. Postmodernism as defined by the Encyclopaedia Britannica: “Any of several artistic movements since about the 1960s that have challenged the philosophy and practices of modern arts or literature.” Postmodernism involves a wide ranging set of developments in critical theory, philosophy, architecture, art, literature and culture. Postmodernism can also be used to as a pejorative term (a word or phrase) to attack changes in society seen as undesirable as they relate to questioning of absolute value systems or forms of fundamentalism. This is what I would like to discuss. These days consist of shifting truth (relativism) and broken promises, from politics to our relationships; it feels like we can not take anyone at his or her word today. Trust and truth have become skewed in our post-modern culture and as believers the question becomes, how do we find God’s truth, and how do we apply it to our lives.

The title of this article is Chasidut (חסידות) which means “pious.” The word comes from a Haredi Jewish religious movement called Hasidic Judaism. Chasidut is from the root word chesed (חסד) meaning “loving kindness.” In the second century B.C. a movement arose that opposed itself to Hellenism and devoted to the strict observance of ritual law, chasidut involved the principles of ultraconservative movement for godly living.

With the problems involving rabbinic Judaism, rather than get into Hasidic Judaism, I would like to take a look at the word chasidut which means “pious” or devout as it pertains to personal piety (devoutness) and Godliness (Godly living) and find out how we can relate this to God’s word, truth, and how to apply it to our lives.

Shifting truth and broken promises are what makes us sceptical, especially of other people to keep their end of the bargain. We believe a person’s word is only as good as their reliability. When we consider the word of God many unbelievers are sceptical. Should they believe the Bible, is it more reliable than other books? Some believe the bible is simply a collection of mans words, that truth is relative and the Bible is ultimately meaningless. As believers we are called to speak the truth about the validity and reliability of the scriptures. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, the apostle Paul gives insight into the authority and reliability of the scriptures. Paul explains that “All scripture is God-breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16). The Greek word “theopneustos” means “God-breathed.” The word points not only to how we received the Scriptures but also to its place of origin. The facts can be summarized as the following:

1. The Bible came from God
2. The Bible was “breathed” by God

In scripture, over and over again, we read “Thus says the Lord.” It follows, then, that since the Word comes from God, it is as reliable as God. So, is God reliable? We know that God is holy, loving, just, immutable (unchanging) and righteous. Malachi 3:6 says “I the Lord do not change.” It follows that if God does not change, neither does His Word therefore he is very reliable. God’s word will never go out of date and the truths found in His Word will never expire. We can rely upon God’s Word for it is perfect. Proverbs 30:5 says, “Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”

In these days of moral relativism how important it is to have a way to determine God’s truth. The Bible is no ordinary book; it is “breathed” by God. The Bible is our anchor and guide, God’s truth found in the Bible is always constant and always true. For us to know God’s truth, and understand how to live a godly life we need to daily be reading his holy Word. In part 2, I will describe why it is of utmost importance for believers to daily study the Word of God!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Baruch HaShem**

**הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:**