

The Scripture

Ps 119:9,11

Text:

Introduction:

In order to establish beliefs that matter, the first thing that must be settled is the source from which these beliefs are taken from. The Bible is the foundation upon which all beliefs rest upon. Our beliefs should come from the Word of God.

It is really a matter of what the authority is in our lives. Those who believe something must have a reason for their beliefs. Just as there are standards in the business world, in government, and in education, the Christian needs an absolute standard for his beliefs.

Many people use as there authority there inner Conscience. "Let your conscience be your guide," many say. That sounds good, but according to the Word of God that is not reliable nor safe.

*"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."
(Titus 1:15, KJV)*

"Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

(1 Timothy 4:2, KJV)

"Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled."

(1 Corinthians 8:7, KJV)

So as we can see our conscience is not always a good guide.

Others say that they will follow their heart. This too can be unreliable and dangerous.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

(Jeremiah 17:9, KJV)

Others still, especially religious individuals, have the 'CHURCH' or man-made CREEDS as their authority. Again such standards are unreliable because man is involved.

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Colossians 2:8, KJV)

"But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition ?" (Matthew 15:3, KJV)

"And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free . Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition ."

(Matthew 15:6, KJV)

"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men ."

(Matthew 15:9, KJV)

1. What Is The Bible?

A. A collection of 66 books divided into 2 major sections know as the Old and New Testaments.

B. Other names given to the Bible include:

1b. The Word of God

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17, KJV)

2b. The Holy Scriptures

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
(2 Timothy 3:15, KJV)

C. Each Testament is divided into 4 divisions and in those divisions there are subdivisions

Illustration

Law (Gen. - Deut.)

History (Josh. - Esther)

Old Testament

Wisdom (Job - Song of Sol)

Prophecy

Major (Isa - Dan)

Minor (Hos - Mal)

Gospel (Mat. - John)

History (Acts)

New Testament

Epistles

Pauline (Rom - Phile)

General (Heb - Jude)

Prophecy (Rev)

2. How Did We Receive The Bible?

The Bible is not just a book, it is THE BOOK. It is different from any other book that has or ever will be written. The Bible is a SUPERNATURAL Book because of the way in which Go gave it to mankind.

A. How did we receive the Bible?

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21, KJV)

Notice three vital facts concerning the Word of God:

1a. It wasn't made up by men.

2a. Men of God wrote the Bible

3a. God authored the Bible

B. God used human writers to pen His Words.

1b. God used about 40 different men from all walks of life to write down the Bible. This was accomplished over a period of some 1600 years.

C. God authored the Bible

1c. The way that God gave us the Bible is call INSPIRATION.

2c. Many say that the Bible contains the Word of God but according to the Bible all scripture is given by inspiration.

D. Because the Bible is inspired of God, it is true from beginning to end.

"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."
(Psalm 119:160, KJV)

3. Do We Have The Bible Today?

A. God promised to Preserve His Word.

⁶The words of the LORD *are* pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. ⁷Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.
Psalm 12:6-7 (KJV)

³⁵Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away . Matthew 24:35 (KJV)

B. The only version of the Bible translated from the Masoretic Text and the Textus Receptus is the King James Version of 1611.

4. Why Do We Need The Bible?

A. Source of Spiritual Food.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"
(1 Peter 2:2, KJV)

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God ."

(Matthew 4:4, KJV)

"I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." (1 Corinthians 3:2, KJV)

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe." (Hebrews 5:12-13, KJV)

"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." (Psalm 19:10, KJV)

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16, KJV)

B. Spiritual Weapon

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

(Hebrews 4:12, KJV)

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"
(Ephesians 6:17, KJV)

C. Keeps Us From Sin

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11, KJV)

- 1c. Somone has once said, "The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible."

D. Gives Direction and Lights Our Path

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105, KJV)

E. Is Profitable For:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"
(2 Timothy 3:16, KJV)

- 1e. Doctrine (what is right)
- 2e. Reproof (what is not right)
- 3e. Correction (how to get it right)
- 4e. Instruction (how to keep it right)

F. Comfort

"Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:18, KJV)

"This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me." (Psalm 119:50, KJV)

5. What Should We Do With The Bible

A. Search It

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me ." (John 5:39, KJV)

"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11, KJV)

B. Study It

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV)

C. Obey it (Do it)

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22, KJV)

D. Compare Scripture with Scripture

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

(1 Corinthians 2:13, KJV)

E. Preach It

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." (2 Timothy 4:2, KJV)

F. Meditate On It

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalm 1:2, KJV)

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:8, KJV)

G. Let It Dwell In You

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16, KJV)

H. Hide It In Your Heart

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11, KJV)