

The Truth about the Bible

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

INTRODUCTION:

Pilate inquired of Jesus, "**What is truth?**" (John 18:38). Man continues to seek the answer to this all-important question, and justifiably so. Jesus Himself once proclaimed, "**And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free**" (John 8:32). Each, in his own way, wants to be free so man continues to seek truth.

JESUS WAS THE TRUTH:

Truth can be found. Jesus, God manifested in the flesh, said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. . .**" (John 14:6). Being God, there was no error in Him. He could not lie or speak anything that was not truth. To know Him was and is to know the truth and to be set free; set free from sin, death, and a hell of eternal punishment, that bind all who do not know Christ.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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."

(II Peter 1:20, 21)

While Jesus lived on earth many did not recognize who He was. Soldiers and so-called religious leaders accused Him of blasphemy and crucified Him on a rugged cross because He would not deny the claims that He was God. Some followers of Jesus, however, recognizing that He was the promised Christ took Him off the cross and laid Him in a borrowed tomb. But Jesus did not remain there. He proved He was God by resurrecting from the grave on the third day. To leave witness of this fact Jesus appeared to as many as five hundred people at once during a forty day span after His resurrection. He then ascended into heaven with many of His disciples watching in amazement as He went. Thus, Jesus no longer remains with us in bodily form. However, He did not leave us ignorant of His ways and words of eternal life.

GOD PROVIDED A RECORD OF TRUTH:

God inspired men to write His Word and it continues with us in written form. We call it the *Bible*. The Bible, every jot and tittle, is God's Word; it does not just merely contain His Word as some scholars claim. Every scripture in the Bible was inspired by Him, "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**" (II Tim. 3:16). Though penned by the hand of man, the Bible

was dictated by the hand of God. **"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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"** (II Peter 1:20, 21).

IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE:

God desired for man to have salvation so He made provision for it through faith in Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9) **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"** (Romans 10:17). Man, without the Word of God to be a lamp unto his feet, will continue to walk in the darkness of ever **"learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth"** (II Timothy 3:7). Man must have the Word of God as recorded in the Bible to lead him to faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is essential to salvation.

After believing and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ the Bible still serves as an essential road map to heaven. Everyone has the responsibility to seek the Bible's guidance for their lives. Paul told Timothy, a young convert, **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."** (II Timothy 2:15). God delivered His Word to us for a purpose. It must be the guideline and basis for all of our doctrines and religious beliefs.

The opinions of philosophers, scholars, great men and religious leaders are only valuable when they agree with and do not in any way contradict the Bible. Satan, the opposer of God, considers it to his best advantage to get man to accept beliefs contrary to the Word of God. He will even take excerpts from the Bible and try to get man to interpret them wrongly and build a doctrine upon a part of God's Word. However, these doctrines studied in the light of the whole of scripture prove to be false. Satan is a liar and a deceiver and should be regarded as such. By following the complete plan of salvation, contained in the Bible, man can obtain eternal life and spend eternity in heaven with God. Without following the Bible's plan of salvation man will continue in sin and receive the wages of sin, death and hell:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23);

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Revelations 20:14).

PROOFS OF BIBLICAL INSPIRATION:

Even though the Bible was written many centuries ago, God has preserved it for us. His protecting hand has guided the transmission of His Word from generation to generation. As a consequence we can rely upon the Bible that we have available to us today to contain the words of eternal life. Satan has tried hard to destroy the Bible throughout the centuries but has been unsuccessful. Not having had success there he attempts, by false means, to destroy man's confidence in God's Word. Satan's accusations are false. Many proofs exist today of the truth of the God-given inspiration of the Bible. The fact that the Bible still exists today in spite of

Satan's attempts to destroy it speaks of God's determination to preserve HIS WORD. A quote from H.L. Hasting's recorded in *The Greatest Book In the World* by John W. Lea, illustrates this point:

"Infidels for eighteen hundred years have been refuting and overthrowing this book, and yet it still stands today as, solid as rock. Its circulation increases, and it is more loved and cherished and read today than ever before. Infidels with all their assaults, make about as much impression on this book as a man with a tack hammer would on the Pyramids of Egypt. When the French monarch proposed the persecution of the Christians in his dominion, an old statesman and warrior said to him, 'Sire, the Church of God is an anvil that has worn out many hammers.' So the hammers of infidels have been pecking away at this book for ages, but the hammers are worn out, and the anvil still endures. If this book had not been the book of God, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hands at it; they die and the book still lives."

God's book is alive and well today! Even with Satan's diabolical attempts to destroy it we have greater historical support by far for the text of the New Testament than any other book of history. Further proof of the Bible being God's Word is its preeminence in literature. The Bible stands above any other book or any other combination of books ever written. It is well said that if all the Bibles in the world were destroyed by some means, that the Bible could be restored in all its essential parts by the quotations from it in the books in the public library. The influence of the Bible on the world is only surpassed by the influence of its principle character on the lives of men.

"This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times. " - Phillip Schaff *The Person of Christ* American Tract Society, 1913

Anyone not accepting the authenticity of the Bible by other proofs should be unquestionably convinced by the fulfillment of its prophecy. Recent miraculous events concerning Israel, including the Six-Day War of 1967, are unexplainable except in the light of Bible prophecy. Accuracy of Old Testament prophecy concerning the Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, would have been impossible except Biblical authors wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Let all honest hearted doubters consider Wilbur M. Smith's observation in *The Incomparable Book*, "Mohammedanism cannot point to any prophecies of the coming of Mohammed uttered hundreds of years before his birth. Neither can the founders of any cult in this country rightly identify any ancient text specifically foretelling their appearance."

Every individual that accepts the truth of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ recorded in scripture, by faith, becomes totally convinced of the authenticity of scripture. They also become living proof of the fact that the Bible is truth. The transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ contained in the Bible is conclusive evidence of divine inspiration of scripture. Lives that have been lifted from the gutter of alcoholism, redemption from drug addiction,

mended marriages; hope, joy, and peace are products of God's mercy and truth. Hundreds and thousands of lives testify to the miraculous changing power of the eternal plan recorded in God's Holy Bible. Scientific accuracy, unity of scripture, proofs of archeology (over a five thousand places spoken of in scripture have been located), all add their weight to the proof that the Bible is inspired of God.

Any individual who does not accept the Bible as God's Word does so not because he has no basis to, but because he is not aware of its support or he simply does not want to believe it. God gave us a solid basis for faith in His Word. Facts prove the Bible is truth. No serious minded, informed, seeker of truth can deny it.

CONCLUSION:

God desires for us to serve Him. He has given us a book of truth from which to learn. The responsibility to read and obey it belongs to every man. Eternal life awaits those who do; damnation to those who do not. The truths of the Bible shall stand long after the wisdom of men has failed, "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away**" (Matthew 24:35). The wielders of hammers return to dust, but the anvil is eternal. Read it and obey!