

THE INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

Class Day #2

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INTRODUCTION:

- A. People have interesting views of the Bible
 - 1. “Interesting and excellent work of literature”—inspired in same sense as Shakespeare
 - a. Makes it of human origin
 - b. No more guarantee of its accuracy or authority than any other human book
 - 2. “Out-of-Date” book
 - a. Can book written thousands of years ago speak to issues of 21st Century?
 - b. Question actually is: Is God able to write a book relevant to all peoples of all times?
 - 3. Some say it is insufficient book
 - a. Good as far as it goes, but need human creeds, doctrines to make complete
 - b. Many exalt own feelings above Bible (“I feel...” “I think...” “It seems to me...”)
- B. But God gives us a different view of the Bible
 - 1. It is different from any book ever written
 - 2. Want to discuss the *inspiration* and *authority* of the Bible

I. THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

- A. Bible says it is inspired (*2 Tim. 3:16-17*)
 - 1. “*inspired*” means “God-breathed”
 - a. “Expired” means “to breathe out”
 - b. “Inspired” means “to breathe in”
 - 2. Writers had God’s word “breathed into” them (*2 Pet. 1:20-21*)
 - a. Prophets “*spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*”
 - b. Holy Spirit moved them to say what they were teaching
- B. *1 Corinthians 2:10-13*
 - 1. God revealed his will through the Holy Spirit vs. 10
 - 2. The Holy Spirit searched the mind of God and revealed them “*in words...which the Holy Spirit teaches*” vs. 13
 - 3. The Holy Spirit determined the mind of God, then inspired (“breathed into”) the Biblical writers the words necessary to accurately reveal God’s will
 - 4. When we read the Bible we are reading the mind of God in human language
- C. When we say what the Bible says we are not giving our opinion
 - 1. We are giving the will of God

2. He stated in terms that can be understood
 3. Bible often criticized by saying, "Too difficult to understand"
 - a. Such is reflection on God
 - (1) Is God so WEAK he cannot write so we can understand?
 - (2) Or is God so CRUEL he deliberately made Bible impossible to understand?
 - b. Bible says we can understand it (*Eph. 3:1-4; Psa. 119:104; Rev. 1:3*)
- D. Is there evidence that the Bible is inspired?
1. It claims to be (*2 Tim. 3:16-17*)
 - a. Over 4,000 times it says "*Thus saith the Lord*" or similar expression
 - b. Such is not absolute proof, but certainly any court would consider the testimony of the defendant
 - c. Is there evidence to support the Bible's claim?—Yes, there is
 2. Its unity argues for its inspiration
 - a. Imagine house built from blueprint by 2 architects living in different states, ten years apart. They never consult or know each other, and yet their plans mesh perfectly. We would say such is impossible.
 - b. Bible written by about 40 men across 1600 years on 3 continents
 - (1) But it fits together perfectly and tells one story
 - (2) Story of man's redemption from sin through Christ
 - (3) Theme of redemption traced from *Genesis* to *Revelation*
 - c. Surely no man could have produced such a book on his own
 3. Its survival shows it is from God
 - a. Bible has been subject of relentless attacks through the centuries
 - (1) 303 A. D.—Roman Emperor Diocletion ordered all Bibles burned
 - (2) Religious leaders attacked it and hid it during Middle Ages
 - (3) Even today religious leaders denounce it, reject, ignore it
 - b. But it is still there (*1 Pet. 1:23-25*)
 4. Its reliability shows it divine source
 - a. 40 men, 1600 years, 3 continents, and various circumstances
 - b. And not one *provable* contradiction
 - (1) If 3 people witness traffic accident, police will get 3 different accounts of what happened
 - (2) But 40 men give same story and no contradictions?
 - (a) There may be some apparent contradictions, but can be explained
 - (b) But must be fair-minded in dealing with them
 5. Its historical accuracy must come from God
 - a. Bible is not a history book, but accurate where it touches history
 - (1) Cities were where it says they were (Archaeology has proven this)
 - (2) Kings ruled when and where Bible says they did

- (3) Through the years some have found examples of what they claimed were mistakes in the Bible, but nearly always further historical and archaeological research has proven the Bible right.
 - (4) Those still not explained very likely will be someday
 - b. These details can only be explained by the inspiration of God
- 6. Scientific Foreknowledge
 - a. Bible is not a science book, but where it touches science it is accurate
 - (1) No *proven* fact of science ever disagrees with the Bible
 - (2) The Bible disagrees with the beliefs of some scientists, but never a proven fact of science
 - b. Moses was *"learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians"* (Acts 7:22)
 - (1) He was taught the Egyptian myths
 - (2) But he didn't write that the earth hatched out of an egg, and that it is flat and rested on the back of 4 elephants standing on the back of a giant turtle.
 - (3) Instead he taught *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (Gen. 1:1)
 - c. Consider what the Bible knew in advance of science
 - (1) It knew the earth was suspended on nothing (Job 26:7)
 - (2) It knew that *"the life is in the blood"* (Lev. 17:11-14)
 - (a) Until about 200 years ago "blood-letting" was considered good medical practice
 - (b) Where did Moses learn better in 1400 B. C.?
 - (3) Spread of contagious diseases (Lev. 13)
 - (a) Quarantine, cover mouth, burn contaminated clothing
 - (b) Egypt taught to remove splinter with salve made of worm blood and donkey dung
 - (c) Where did Moses learn better than he was taught in school?
- 7. Prophecy
 - a. Perhaps this is the greatest evidence of inspiration
 - (1) Prophecies were not vague, educated guesses
 - (2) But specific, minute details that could not possibly be guessed
 - b. Over 300 concerning Christ
 - (1) Where he would be born, he would work miracles, would be rejected by his own, would die among criminals, be buried in borrowed tomb
 - (2) How did the writers know?
 - (a) Would they have guessed a virgin birth? (Isa. 7:14)
 - (b) Obviously, God must have told them
 - (3) Not one prophecy of Christ ever failed
 - (4) Peter Stoner, renowned mathematician calculated odds of just 8 prophecies being fulfilled accidentally

- (a) The odds are 1 in 10 to the 17th power of just 8
 - (b) Dollar bill is 6 inches long. It would take 10,560 dollar bills laid end to end to extend 1 mile. The moon is 239,000 miles from the earth. It would take 2.5 billion dollar bills to reach from the earth to the moon. But that is a small number compared to 1×10 to the 17th power. That many dollar bills would reach from the earth to the moon almost 40 million times.
 - (c) And that's only 8 of the 300+ prophecies of Christ in the Bible.
 - (d) Imagine the calculations for all 300
 - (e) There is no way this could be accidental. Only God could be that accurate every time.
- E. The Bible is inspired by God
- 1. The evidence of such inspiration is overwhelming to those who study it fairly
 - 2. When we read the Bible we are reading the mind of God in human languages

II. THE BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE

- A. Once we have determined the inspiration of the Bible, the issue is settled
- 1. Here is the biggest difference between truth and many today
 - 2. Many have various authorities in religion and morality
 - a. Creeds, conferences, councils, synods, majority votes, *etc.*
 - b. Personal opinion (“I think...” “I feel...” “I don’t see anything wrong with...”)
 - 3. Bible is NOT THE ***FINAL*** AUTHORITY in religion and morals, it is the ***ONLY*** authority
 - a. “If all else fails, read the Bible” is wrong approach
 - b. Bible is our first resource, not our last recourse
 - c. There are no other religious authorities (*Matt. 28:18*)
- B. Bible is right on all issues of religion and morality—it is only book given by God
- 1. Not *nearly* right, *close to being* right, IT IS RIGHT!
 - 2. Want to know what is right on abortion, homosexuality, transgendering, baptism, denominationalism, instrumental music, women preachers—READ THE BIBLE
 - a. It is where God, through the Holy Spirit, recorded his will on these subjects
 - b. You are not reading human opinions, but what God said
 - 3. Bible does not express “interesting views and ideas”
 - a. It tells us what God says on these subjects
 - b. The Bible is not something to consider as we wrestle with these, it settles these subjects
 - c. After read it in the Bible there is no more room for discussion
 - (1) All the “I thinks” “I feels” in the world become meaningless
 - (2) 100% of population could vote the Bible wrong, but nothing has changed

- (3) All the “religious experts” could approve something, but still wrong if Bible says it is wrong
 - (4) I may not like it, may not have been the way I would have done it, but that is the way it is
 - (5) Culture doesn’t change it
 - (6) If God it, it is settled
 - (7) And the Bible is the only way to know what God said
- C. It is authoritative because it is complete (*2 Pet. 1:2-4*)
- 1. God “*has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness*”
 - a. If the Bible contains all, there is no need for anything else
 - b. How could we add to “*all things*”
 - 2. This also means that we cannot change anything in the Bible
(Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18-19)

CONCLUSION:

- A. Think what you hold in your hand when you hold the Bible
 - 1. It is the only book ever written by the mind of God
 - 2. It is inspired and authoritative
- B. It is your responsibility to know what it says and then obey it (*James 1:22-25*)

