



THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION:

There is a universally accepted principle, "Water never rises higher than its source." The Bible itself states the same principle, "By their fruits you shall know them" (Matthew 7:16). James also mentions this same general principle in asking, "Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh." THE POINT IS THIS: Wherever the Bible has gone civilization has been lifted to a higher plane. It has made better husbands and wives, better fathers and mothers, better sons and daughters, and better employers and employees. It has been the strongest influence for good in the history of the world. Could this influence for good have come from a source which was itself a fabrication and a collection of false claims? Knowing what we know about cause and effect, we cannot but conclude that the good influence of the Bible is another evidence that it within itself is eminently good.

It was through the teaching and influence of the Scriptures that many of the major institutions of our modern world were created. Many of the laws that make our land a pleasant place in which to live also came from the teaching of the Bible. Without its beneficent influence, our world would be an infinitely worse place in which to live.

Those of us in the independent Christian Church are in a unique position in relationship to the rest of the Christian world. Every Christian denomination has a set of beliefs and rules, a creed or constitution by which all faith and worship is conducted. These consist of man-made ideas and interpretations of what the Bible says, written down with pen and ink. This does not mean that those who follow such church doctrines cannot be Christians, but it does mean that they aren't following New Testament precedents. This departure from New Testament practice is the very problem that caused many men in early American history to begin a movement

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to restore New Testament Christianity and it is to the New Testament that this church is dedicated.

The New Testament is our rule of life, our divine constitution and guidebook. In it is contained EVERYTHING NECESSARY FOR LIFE AND GODLINESS (II Peter 1:3). Paul tells us in II Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." The New Testament contains everything necessary to make our worship and us acceptable in the sight of God. In it is found the divine pattern for how the church is to function and the divine standard for how the individual believer is to live his life. How far we can depart from the New Testament and still remain true to God is highly questionable.

LET'S LOOK AT THE VALUE OF THE BIBLE...

I. TO THE LOST:

- A. We are _____ by the Word of God, I Peter 1:23 – "for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God." James 1:18 – "In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the work of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures."
- B. We are _____ by the word. James 1:21 – "Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls." II Timothy – "and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Romans 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
- C. _____ comes through hearing the Word. Romans 10:17 – "So faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ."

We know that Christ is actually the one who saves us. When we confess Him as our Lord and Savior and submit to Him, He saves us. But the Lordship of Jesus and submission and obedience to the Word of God are one and the same. All we know of Jesus is through the Word of God. All we know of His will is through this

revelation He has left us. This is graphically seen in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:21-27.

II. TO THE SAVED:

A. As a means of _____.

Read Matthew 4:4

Read John 6:63

Read Acts 20:32

B. The word _____ us and keeps us clean and holy.

Read Psalm 119:9

Read John 15:3; 17:17

Read Ephesians 5:26

C. By the Word of God we are able to resist the attacks of Satan and win the victory over _____. We see this nowhere better displayed than in our Lord's temptations in Matthew 4:1-11. There, right after his baptism, he was in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. Jesus parried every thrust of the devil by responding with the Word of God. And the devil fled. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:11-17 that the Word is the sword of the Spirit, which we are to use as our offensive weapon against the wiles of the devil.

Read Psalm 119:11

D. By the Word of God we learn the _____.

Read Psalm 19:7; 119:105

Read John 17:17

E. Finally, we see the great importance of the word when we learn that our very _____ depends upon it.

Read Matthew 7:24-27

Read John 12:48

QUESTIONS ON INSPIRATION

I. What Jesus said about the Old Testament:

A. Reliable – From the following Scriptures, what Old Testament stories does Jesus confirm as being historical facts?

1. Matthew 6:29 _____
 2. Matthew 12:40-41 _____
 3. Matthew 19:4 _____
 4. Matthew 23:35 _____
 5. Mark 12:26 _____
 6. Luke 4:25-26 _____
 7. Luke 4:27 _____
 8. Luke 17:27 _____
 9. Luke 17:29 _____
 10. Luke 17:32 _____
 11. John 3:14 _____
- B. Inspired by God – Give Old Testament references where possible.
1. Matthew 22:31-32. Moses

 2. Mark 7:9-13. Moses

 3. Mark 12:36. David

 4. John 10:34-36. Scripture can't be broken

- C. Authoritative – What does Jesus say about Scriptural authority?
1. John 5:39-40 _____
 2. John 5:46-47 _____
 3. Luke 16:29-31 _____
 4. Did Jesus submit to the authority of the Scriptures?

- D. Prophetic – Did the following come true?
1. Micah 5:2 Birth place of Jesus _____

- 2. Psalm 22:16 Hands and feet pierced _____
- 3. Isaiah 53:12 Executed with criminals _____

II. Inspiration of the New Testament

- A. What did Jesus promise the New Testament writers?
 - 1. John 14:26 _____
 - 2. John 15:26 _____
 - 3. John 16:13 _____
- B. What did these writers claim?
 - 1. Peter (2 Peter 3:1-2; 1 Peter 1:22-25)

 - 2. Paul (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Cor. 14:37)

 - 3. Apostles (Gal. 1:8-9; Acts 2:42)

- C. Did the Church recognize the writings as Scripture?
 - 1. 2 Peter 3:14-16 _____
 - 2. 1 Timothy 5:18 _____
 - 3. Jude 17-18 _____

III. Other evidence confirming inspiration: (nothing to write here)

- A. Bible's growth in first century.
- B. Archaeology
- C. Amazing Unity
- D. Indestructibility
- E. Circumstantial Evidence:
 - 1. Christian Church
 - 2. Lord's Day
 - 3. Lord's Supper
 - 4. Baptism