

IX. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON NINE

... ABOUT THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this lesson is to affirm that the Bible is God's inerrant, and infallible Word and the ONLY standard by which our faith and practice is to be judged. Our respect for it's authority is to be such that we confess, "If God says it - I believe it; I will do it; and that settles it."

As children of God, we must have a proper attitude and relationship with the Bible. The Bible doesn't become God's Word only when it is quickened (revealed and made alive) to you person- ally. The Bible always was and always will be God's inerrant, infallible (perfect, containing no errors, with no possibility of error) Word, even if you do not believe it to be so, or have not yet, received revelation about something the Bible says. The Bible is the revelation of God's will to His children. You do not need a special "revelation" before you do what He says for you to do in the Bible/his word.

What is the promise of the Bible for those who place their confidence in the inerrancy of the Bible and live it?

Matthew 7:24-25, Therefore whosoever HEARETH these sayings of mine, and DOETH THEM, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and IT FELL NOT: for it was founded upon a rock.

What will happen to those who don't accept all the Bible as being inspired by God and therefore don't order their lives according to it's precepts?

Matthew 7:26.27. And every one that HEARETH these sayings of mine, and DOETH THEM NOT, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and IT FELL:AND GREAT WAS THE FALL OF IT.

THE: BIBLE AUTHORITATIVE AND INERRANT

What do the following Scriptures say about the Bible that affirms its authority and inerrancy?

1 Corinthians 14:37

2 Peter 1:21

2 Timothy 3:16

Matthew 5:18

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the Bible has its origin in God and therefore is backed by God's authority and omniscience. Since this is true, that which the Bible teaches is eternal truth, being the same yesterday, today and forever, therefore we may rely upon it and profit from applying its truths to our lives.

- **Jesus affirmed its authority and inerrancy**

Jesus went to the Old Testament passages which refer to Himself and showed His hearers that those things which were written in the past were being fulfilled in Him. The fulfillment of prophecy should have shown the people that the Bible is without error. Jesus by referring to these **passages**, proves that He believed them. Thus Jesus reaffirmed what the Bible says about itself. Every word will be fulfilled.

Luke 24:44, And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

- **The Church affirms the Bible**

For more than 1900 years, the Church has believed the Bible to be the inerrant and infallible Word of God. This fact alone does not prove the inerrancy of the Scriptures but this generation cannot disregard the foundation of Christian belief throughout the ages. It would be folly to deny what was accepted by Christians of previous centuries. They accepted the Scriptures as God's Word.

Martin Luther: "The Scriptures, although they were written by men, are not of men nor from men, but from God."

John Calvin: "We owe to the Scriptures the same reverence which we owe to God; because it has proceeded from Him alone and has nothing belonging to man mixed with."

Therefore is it of any significance to us that the Church has accepted the Bible for the past 1900 years?

Hebrews 12:1, "wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of **witnesses**

- **God's character demands that the Bible be true and inerrant.**

What do the following Scriptures say about God and His Word?

John 17:17

Psalms 119:160

Titus 1:2

Numbers 23:19

2 Corinthians 1:20

Conclusions: From the above Scriptures we see that God's Word is true and everlasting; that God is truth and cannot lie and therefore that which He promises in His Word, He will perform it.

WHY THE BIBLE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO TESTAMENTS

The Old Testament was preparatory to the New Testament.

What do the following Scriptures have to say about the relationship between the Old and New Testament?

Hebrews 10:1

Romans 15:4

1 Cor 10:11

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the Old Testament fore-shadowed the New Testament and is set forth as a pattern and example which has its fulfillment and interpretation revealed in the New Testament.

- It can be said that the New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament and the Old Testament is revealed in the New.

APPLYING THE WORD TO ONE'S LIFE

Psalms 119:18, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law"

- This verse prayed as a prayer before beginning Bible study will adequately express your need to God.
- After reading a passage, use these two questions to further understand it.

1. What does it say? (It means what it says)

2. How do I apply it to my life today?

According to Joshua 1:8 what are we to do with the Word after we have studied it?

What promises are given to those who do them?

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that it contains no errors?

Are you allowing the Bible to dictate your conduct in:

- doctrinal beliefs;
- sexual conduct;
- financial accountability ;
- family relationships;
- all other relationships;
- use of time ?