

# How We Learn from Scripture

2005030

## Topic # 0154 (authority)

### Introduction:

- A. The Bible claims inspiration throughout its pages – 4000 times in OT & NT.
  - 1. We need to immerse ourselves in the word of God.
  - 2. It must become the authority for our life.
- B. What is our attitude toward scripture?
  - 1. Study a topic: *if that's what the bible says...that settles it.* OR
  - 2. *Well I know the Bible says that....but...*
    - a) then subjectivity takes over
    - b) One's personal point of view takes over.
  - 3. Submissively accepting what the Bible says must remain one of the fundamentals of who we are as a church and as individual Christians.
- C. How do you view the bible?
  - 1. As a devotional guide?
  - 2. A source of comfort & consolation in times of sorrow/distress?
  - 3. A collection of ancient literature “out of date” and/or irrelevant to modern man?
  - 4. Or...as THE word of God? As THE revelation of God's will to mankind.

### I. God's word is **THE** authority.

- A. If the Bible is inspired of God – then it is **HIS** word. THE word of God.
  - 1. That means the bible is authoritative.
  - 2. The bible is from the One in whom all authority resides.
    - a) *Who would argue that God could give His word & it be powerless?*
- B. 1 Cor. 2:13 – words of the **apostles** became the standard of authority.
  - 1. Christians were to measure anything preached to them by what the apostles taught. **We should do this too.**
  - 2. Gal. 1:8
  - 3. 2 Jhn 9-11 – another indication of the authority of the word of God.
- C. The doctrine of Christ is the standard by which we are to measure what is **preached**.

### II. God's word should be viewed as **absolute truth**.

- A. Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2 – God cannot **lie**.
  - 1. If God can't lie – then the Bible can't lie. It cannot teach that which is not true!
  - 2. Whatever it teaches is absolutely true.
    - a) Bible says something happened – it happened.
    - b) 6 day creation; parting red sea; Jonah; resurrection
  - 3. Why? What the Bible teaches to the case is the case because what the Bible says is what God says & what God says is truth.
    - a) John 17:17

- b) Psa 19:7-9; 33:4; 119:104; 128
- B. Truth of the Bible is absolute.
1. It is free from & independent of the conclusions of the reader/bible student.
  2. Truth of the bible is truth regardless of what **conclusions** people reach.
    - a) This is in stark contrast to relativism – which holds to the idea that truth is dependent upon the conclusions that man reaches.
    - b) *What is truth to you may not be truth to me.*
    - c) The truth of a proposition is not changed by the conclusion someone reaches about a matter.
- C. Hear about many who “rethink” matters.
1. Baptism; role of women; what to call the church.
  2. May “rethink” these – may even change mind – but this doesn’t change what the Bible already teaches.
  3. Plant/rock illustration.
  4. So it is with the truth – man can say what he wants to about a bible matter, but that the bible says about it remains the same.
- D. God’s word is constant.
1. Psa. 119:89 – **what was truth 2000 years ago is still truth.**
  2. How many feel bible out of date – irrelevant to today’s culture?
    - a) How many believe bible does not address life of modern man?
  3. We hear statements: *what the HS told Paul may not be what the Spirit is saying to you and me.*
    - a) Really? What does this imply?
    - b) That the all-knowing God incapable of writing a book that is relevant for all generations. **Who will defend that statement?**
    - c) It could imply that God chose not to make it relevant.
    - d) Wouldn’t this mean God lied in 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17?
  4. The constant, unchanging truth of the bible is clearly affirmed in the scripture:
    - a) 1 Pet. 1:23, 25; Mt. 24:35

### III. Men can **learn** the truth.

- A. Many: we can never know for certain what is the truth of the Bible.
1. Follow to logical conclusion – we begin to decide no one has the right to make a determination another person is wrong.
- B. John 8:31-32 – Jesus said...
1. Being a disciple depends upon abiding in His word.
  2. Jesus: one must be able to **learn & know** the truth.
    - a) Impossible to abide in it unless we are first able to learn it.
- C. Consider these scriptures:
1. Eph. 3:3-4; 5:17
  2. 1 Tim. 2:4 – God wants all men to know the truth.
  3. Things that are essential to salvation are, w/proper study, easily understandable.

#### IV. So how do we learn from scripture?

- A. Once we understand the scriptures are authoritative, then we must apply it in our lives.
  - 1. Mt. 7:21-27 – we must do the will of God.
  - 2. The scriptures are the source for **doctrine** & conduct. 2 Tim. 3:16-17
  - 3. 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Thess. 5:21-22 – Christians are to *examine themselves* and *hold fast to what is good*.
- B. So we examine the scriptures to see how we should proceed. We discern God's will through:
  - 1. **Direct commands**. (1 Cor. 11:24-25 – LS example).
  - 2. **Approved example**. (Acts 20:7) WHEN the LS served – FD of the week.
    - a) To change the day – is to go where Bible authority does not go.
    - b) 1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:8-9
  - 3. **Necessary inference** – (Acts 20:7) FREQUENCY of the observance – EVERY Sunday.
- C. To do the will of the Father- our authority must be ascertained this way.
  - 1. To go out on our own – is to deny the all sufficiency of scripture & to trespass against Almighty God.
  - 2. Col. 3:17
- D. Legalistic? Patternistic?
  - 1. Some may view it that way – but *what has God said?*
    - a) Is what He said true?
    - b) If so – it must become the standard for our lives.
  - 2. We're not worshipping the **Bible** here. We're worshipping the **God** of the Bible.
  - 3. Let's reverence Him!

#### Conclusion:

- A. Psa. 19:7-9
- B. What is your view of the Bible?
- C. Is it real to you?
- D. I N V I T A T I O N