

The Authority of Scripture

Whether the bible arose from men alone or God inspired is perhaps the most crucial question of our time. If the bible is merely human, arising from myths & legends – it has no authority in our lives. But...if scripture is from God, as it claims, then it possesses unconditional, divine authority over us. Our faith as Christians rests on the inspiration & trustworthiness of the scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).

I. Answering the critics.

- A. The word *has too much baggage*.
 - 1. **This document is either trustworthy or it is not.**
- B. Some claim scripture is of human origin.
 - 1. Matthew 4:4, 7, 10 – God’s word had a lasting force in Jesus’ life.
 - 2. Luke 9:26; 2 John 9 – We must not go beyond doctrine of Christ.

II. The bible claims inspiration throughout its pages.

- A. OT & NT claim inspiration 4000 times.
- B. In the Old Testament:
 - 1. Exodus 17:14; 34:27; Psalm 119:9; Isaiah 51:16; Jeremiah 1:7
- C. The NT also claims divine inspiration.
 - 1. Jesus – John 7:16-17; 12:49-50
 - 2. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to the apostles. He would:
 - 1. Luke 12:11-12 – inspire their message
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 – teach them what to speak.
 - 3. John 14:26 – remind them of what Jesus said.
 - 4. John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:3-4 – guide them into all truth.
 - 3. Paul’s words – 1 Thessalonians 2:13 see also 1 Corinthians 2:11-13.

III. If the Bible is from God – it will surely make a difference in our lives.

- A. Bible contains words that will change our lives.
 - 1. Acts 11:14 – contains God’s plan of salvation
 - 2. Rom 1:16 – contains the gospel
 - 3. Rom 10:17 – it has the power of God to bring us to faith
 - 4. 1 Peter 1:22-25 – we are born again with imperishable seed.
- B. The Bible brings us to wisdom beyond our own. 1 Corinthians 1:25
- C. Because it is truth, bible should have authority in our lives.
 - 1. Those who reject this/fail to apply are not wise. Matthew 7:24-27
 - 2. John 8:31 – want to be a true disciple? Abide in the word of God.
- D. If it is the authority in our lives – it must never be changed.
 - 1. Revelation 22:18-19
 - 1. Who can improve upon the word of God? Romans 9:20-21
 - 2. Galatians 1:6-9 – anyone who preaches a different gospel will be accursed.

Conclusion:

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – what Paul taught remains true today.
- B. John 7:17 - one who practices scripture knows it is indeed the word of God.
- C. John 15:8-10 - Are you keeping His commandments?