

THE BIBLE AND THE BODY OF CHRIST

THE DISPENSATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIBLE

*“That the man of God may be perfect,
thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

~ 2 Timothy 3:17

1. What's New

- a. This series has laid a foundation for Bible belief – as taught by the Bible.
- b. *Is the Bible the word of God? How was it given? How did we get it?* It's not new.
- c. Bible belief also depends on understanding the origin, nature, purpose of the church
- d. We are to make all men see the mystery fellowship: Body of Christ – Eph 1:22, 3:9
- e. The Body of Christ called “new man” “new creature” – Eph 2:15, 2 Cor 5:17
- f. There is a special relationship between the Body and the Bible in this dispensation
- g. The Bible, as a finished book, is newer than the new creature.

2. The Bible and Israel

- a. Scriptural inspiration began and ended with Israel - Rom 3:1-2
- b. The only scripture at the time of Christ was law, prophets, psalms – Lk 24:44
- c. Peter's ministry didn't involve hosting Bible studies - Mt 10:17-20, Acts 2:4, 1Jn 2:27
- d. MMLJ, Hebrew epistles inspired because of Israel's fall/remnant scattered – Jam 1:1
- e. This dispensation was a result of the fall of Israel – Rom 3:9, 11:11, 11:32
- f. Scripture would keep Israel's future without a present standing – Rom 11:25-29
- g. Paul's 13 epistles inspired to finish the book - Col 1:25
- h. The Bible was finished because of this dispensation, the revelation of the mystery.

3. The Bible and the Perfect Man

- a. Many scriptures defining Bible doctrines come from OT scriptures b/c of prophecy.
 - i. Prophets inspired, canonized, and confirmed preservation of scriptures.
 - ii. We know it was not revealed, inspired, canonized, or preserved all at once.
 - iii. If there were no prophets – the faithful kept it/preserved it through copies.
- b. 'All scripture' was made for the church, the Body of Christ – 2Ti 3:16-17
 - i. This necessitates preservation – and is also the process – Eph 4:11-12
 - ii. The perfect man (opposed to perfecting saints) is the Body – Eph 4:13
 - iii. The perfect man is established on revelation of the mystery of Christ.
 - iv. The “man of God” “perfect man” is mentioned also in 1 Cor 13:11
 - v. Prophecy ceases when that which is perfect is come – 1 Cor 13:9, Eph 4:11
- c. No more Israel = no more prophets = no more unfinished business
 - i. Now the Body = now the Bible = now the perfect man of God.
 - ii. Now grown, established, speaking truth, fitly joined together. Eph 4:14-16
 - iii. The Body requires the Book. The Book perfects the Body.

4. **The Bible and Apostolic Authority**

- a. Some churches claim apostolic succession as authority (church was before the Bible)
 - i. Who has final authority?
- b. The authority of the Bible comes from God-given apostles/prophets who wrote it.
- c. The apostolic inspiration had authority over all after them. Gal 1:8-9
- d. Timothy did not have authority higher than Paul's writings - 2 Tim 2:7
- e. The scriptures held authority over the later church, b/c now in the Body ...
 - i. No more priests, no more apostles, no more prophets.
- f. The last authoritative apostolic act was to finish 'all scripture' given by inspiration.

5. **The Bible and God's Will Today**

- a. We cannot see/walk/operate acc. to the mystery fellowship without all scripture.
- b. The Bible was intended for the church today to know and do His perfect will.
- c. The Body required to use the words - Eph 1:8-9, 2:10, 3:9, 4:15, 5:26, 6:17
- d. Timothy represents the church, as one benefiting from, but not writing scripture.
- e. He is told to keep and be faithful to the words/doctrine – 2 Tim 1:13, 2:7-15
- f. He is told to be meet for use, prepared unto 'every good work' by ...
 - i. 1) Purging error (perfection, purity, preservation) – 2 Tim 2:21
 - ii. 2) Instructing others in the truth – 2 Tim 2:25
 - iii. 3) Continue in all scripture – 2 Tim 3:14-17
- g. The Body needs the scripture in every member's language, geography, hands.
 - i. We are now in Tim's place keeping the words, perfecting one another by the words of God, the words of Christ, the holy scriptures.