

**Pastor Robert Rutta**

## **The Authority of the Scriptures**

**Joshua 1:8** - This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

**Psalms 1:1-3** - Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

**II Timothy 3:14-17** - <sup>14</sup> But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; <sup>15</sup> And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

**II Timothy 4:1-4** - <sup>1</sup> I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup> And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

### **II Peter 1:12-21**

We believe that the Bible is our sole (or only) authority for all that we believe and practice.

The Scriptures stand alone as our authority.

We must base everything that we believe on the Word of God.

We cannot teach our own beliefs or ideas.

Many different churches have other authorities:

- Some follow tradition – which disagrees with Scripture
- Some follow experience (I felt it so it must be real)

Both of those can be faulty.

We see that -

### **I. The Scriptures Are Better Than Experience**

#### **II Peter 1:15-19**

Peter is remembering his experience on the Mount of Transfiguration.

No matter how wonderful an experience may seem to be, we must be careful that we interpret all of our experiences in the light of what the Scripture really says.

The Bible is correct. Our minds may play tricks on us, but the Bible will never play tricks on us.

Satan may attempt to deceive us, but the Bible will never deceive us.

We are not intelligent enough to be able to see through the deceptions of Satan, and we do not have enough information available to us to see through his trickery.

The Bible, however, gives us clear instructions which will never lead us astray.

We also see that -

### **II. The Scriptures Must Be Heeded As A Light That Shines In A Dark Place**

**II Peter 1:19** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

**Take heed** = *pay attention to*

On a very dark night, when you might only see one light way off in the distance, your eye will be drawn to that light.

This light may show you the way you need to go.

The Scriptures are like that. They will show you the way you need to go.

God's Word is a light for for our path.

The scriptures will show you how to be saved.

They will show you how to live a godly life.

They will show you how to treat your wife or your husband and your children.

They will show you how to raise your family.

In addition, we see that -

### **III. The Scriptures Must Be Heeded Until The Day Dawns**

**II Peter 1:19** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, **until the day dawn**, and the day star arise in your hearts:

The day referred to in this verse is a reference to the return of Jesus Christ for the believers.

It means that we are to allow the Scriptures to guide our lives until the Lord comes back for us and takes us to be with Him in heaven.

**John 14:1-3** –

(1) Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

(2) In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

(3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

We must study the Bible and live according to it until the time that the Lord comes back for us.

Furthermore, we see that -

### **IV. The Scriptures Must Be Heeded Until The Day Star Arises In Your Hearts**

**II Peter 1:19** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, **until the day dawn**, and **the day star arise in your hearts**:

The day star is the star which shines very brightly just before dawn.

The day star in this passage refers to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The fact that the star arises *in your hearts* means that we must pay attention to the Scriptures until such time as we become perfectly Christlike in our hearts.

As we study the Scriptures and submit our hearts and minds to them, God the Holy Spirit will produce a Christlikeness in our lives.

A Christlikeness in our hearts will result in a Christlikeness in our actions.

**II Corinthians 3:18** - But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

We must study the Scriptures until we are perfectly conformed to the image of Christ, until we are perfectly like Him in our thinking and in our actions.

As we submit our hearts and minds to the Scriptures, God the Holy Spirit will produce this Christlikeness in our lives. This is how the fruit of the Spirit is produced.

**Galatians 5:22-23** - (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

In this life, however, no matter how much progress we may make toward Christlikeness, we will never quite make it to the point where we are completely Christlike because we have old sin natures. Nevertheless, we must keep making progress toward Christlikeness, and we must approach it as closely as we possibly can.

I must be more like Jesus in my life today than I was last year.

Next year, I must be more like Jesus than I am this year.

Ten years from now I must be far more Christlike than I am today.

We must study the Scriptures until the Holy Spirit produces a perfect Christlikeness in us.

Furthermore, we see that -

### **V. The Scriptures Are Not Of Any Private Interpretation**

**II Peter 1:20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

This means that one person cannot interpret a passage of Scripture in one way and someone else interpret the same passage of Scripture in another way and both be right.

They may both be wrong, but they may not both be right.

What we must do is seek to find out what God says in His Word – not what we want it to say.

There are no contradictions from one part to another.

Scripture may be used to interpret Scripture.

Next, we see that -

### **VI. The Scriptures Are Not Just A Human Production**

**II Peter 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

If men wrote the Bible without the aid of the Holy Spirit, there would be all kinds of contradictions from one writer to another; but the Bible is a book which has no proven contradictions.

Finally, we see that -

### **VII. The Scriptures Were Written Under The Direction Of God The Holy Spirit**

**II Peter 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

Since God the Holy Spirit directed each human writer of the Bible, we have the very words which God intended us to have.

Also, there are no errors; and there are no contradictions.

As a result of this, we have a Bible which we may trust.

Whatever it says is true.

We need to make every effort to learn what the Bible says and to practice it in our lives.

When it says that we need to be doing something, then we need to be doing it.

When it says we need to stop doing something, then we need to stop doing it.

Each time we learn something new from the Bible, we are to submit ourselves to its teaching.

When you do this over a period of time, God will richly bless your life.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Bible is such a book that we can rely upon it because it is better than experience. It was written under the supervision of God the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we can rely upon it; and we can believe what it says. It is completely trustworthy.

We can believe what it says regarding how we may go to heaven.

We can build our lives on it and be pleasing to the Lord in all that we do and say.

We can submit our hearts and minds to the teaching of the Bible, and the Holy Spirit will produce a Christlikeness in our lives as a result.