

Fundamentals Of The Church

Understanding Bible Authority

(Co 3:17)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Good to see each of you here this morning.
2. Bible Authority
 - a. Over the years it has lost its biblical definition.
 - b. Preachers, elders, and members are to blame.
 - i. A lack of hardcore study on studying going on anymore.
 - ii. Congregations have been satisfied too long w/ sermonets and watered down classes.
 - c. The church especially here in America is much like those found in **He 5** babies instead of adults.
 - i. Though they ought to be teachers but were still needing to be taught.
3. Our new series is going to be on the fundamentals of scripture. To begin this we are going to start by taking a look at "Understanding Bible Authority."
 - a. **Co 3:17** says, "...whatever you do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."
 - i. Having Bible authority is a must but how do we ascertain that authority?
 - b. Over the next few Sunday mornings we are going to look at how to "Understand Bible Authority."
 - i. There is a book entitled "How To Ascertain Bible Authority" by brother Roy Deavor that was very instrumental in this series of lessons and I recommend everyone to try and get a copy if you can.
 - c. This morning in order to learn how to learn we must first fully grasp and hold firm to some basic principles. Those principles are knowing that...
 - i. The Bible is inspired
 - ii. The Bible sets forth faith
 - iii. The Bible sets forth a pattern
4. Through learning these three things and more we will hopefully get a grasp on what it means to ascertain Bible authority.
 - a. With that in mind let us look closer at how...

I. The Bible Is Inspired (II Ti 3:16-17) (TURN THERE)

A. Defining the word inspiration secularly

1. Webster's Dictionary: "A divine influence or action on a person believed to qualify him or her to receive and communicate sacred revelation"
2. Daniel Fuller is a rationalist. Notice what his thoughts on bible inspiration are as he attacks E. J. Young's doctrine of inerrancy.
 - i. "Now a historian, unfettered by the necessity to uphold Young's doctrine of inerrancy, would immediately declare it was **highly probable** that Stephen's peculiar chronology in Acts 7:14 stemmed from both his and his hearers having been nurtured in a text that is today extant in the Samaritan Pentateuch. But Edward Young, historical scholar that he was, could not follow this **highly probable** pathway of historical reasoning ... But to be unwilling to let historical data supply a **highly probable** solution is to reject historical data in the interest of theological dogma." [emphasis mine]
 - a. **Ac 7:14** "Then Joseph sent and called his father Jacob and all his **relatives** to him, **seventy-five people**." [emphasis mine]
 1. **Gn 46:27** "And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the **house of Jacob** who went to Egypt were **seventy**." [emphasis mine]
 2. **Ex 1:5** "And all the souls that came out of the **loins of Jacob** were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt already." (KJV) [emphasis mine]
 - b. There is no contradiction.
 1. If you take the 12 sons of Joseph and their children plus Dinah you get 70 people.
 - i. They make up the "house/loins" of Joseph.
 2. However Dinah's children would be considered the "house/loins" of her husband not Joseph.
 - i. Stephen mentions the "relatives" of Joseph and is not specific to the house of Joseph thus Dinah had 4 kids plus her husband or had 5 kids at the time.
3. Notice though Fuller is saying Young is an idiot for not using "his" logic instead of logic itself which leads to an inerrancy.
 - i. The secular world cannot fathom a "God breathed" book.
 - a. **I Co 1:27-29** "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence."

- B. Defining the word inspiration biblically
 - 1. Easton's Bible Dictionary
 - i. "that extraordinary or supernatural divine influence vouchsafed to those who wrote the Holy Scriptures, rendering their writings infallible." (Easton, M. (1996). Easton's Bible dictionary. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.)
 - 2. International Standard Bible Encyclopedia
 - i. "The Biblical books are called inspired as the Divinely determined products of inspired men; the Biblical writers are called inspired as breathed into by the Holy Spirit, so that the product of their activities transcends human powers and becomes Divinely authoritative." (from International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Electronic Database Copyright © 1996, 2003, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)
 - 3. **II Timothy 3:16-17** (three points are found here)
 - i. The affirmation of the inspiration of scripture.
 - a. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God"
 - ii. The application of the inspiration of scripture.
 - a. "profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction"
 - iii. The designed consequence and use of the inspired scriptures.
 - a. "man of God may be complete"
- C. The Bible is inspired because...
 - 1. God the Father is the origin of authority.
 - i. **Gn 1:1** "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
 - ii. **Ps 33:6** "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth."
 - a. One writer put it, "Because He is what He is, all original authority—source authority—is inherent in Him."
 - 2. The same can be said of God the Son as He has "all authority."
 - i. **Mt 28:18** "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
 - 3. God the Spirit was given authority to inspire men to write and teach.
 - i. **Jn 14:26** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."
 - 4. The Bible is inspired because...God wrote it.

II. The Bible Sets Forth Faith (**He 11:1**) (TURN THERE)

- A. Defining the word faith secularly
 - 1. Webster's Dictionary:
 - i. "firm belief in something for which there is no proof" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)

2. Dr. Richard Dawkins a leading atheist wrote in "Viruses Of The Mind"
 - i. "If you have a faith, it is statistically overwhelmingly likely that it is the same faith as your parents and grandparents had. No doubt soaring cathedrals, stirring music, moving stories and parables, help a bit. But by far the most important variable determining your religion is the accident of birth. The convictions that you so passionately believe would have been a completely different, and largely contradictory, set of convictions, if only you had happened to be born in a different place. Epidemiology, not evidence."
(http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Richard_Dawkins)
 - a. He thinks there is no evidence to produce faith, he is wrong.
 3. He then wrote from the perspective of a doctor diagnosing faith.
 - i. "The patient typically finds himself impelled by some deep, inner conviction that something is true, or right, or virtuous: a conviction that doesn't seem to owe anything to evidence or reason, but which, nevertheless, he feels as totally compelling and convincing. We doctors refer to such a belief as 'faith.'" (Ibid)
 4. Even secular translations have messed it up.
 - i. **He 11:1** "The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. **It's our handle on what we can't see.**" (The Message)
[emphasis mine]
- B. Defining the word faith biblically
1. **He 11:1** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
 - i. Things: this is what is behind the curtain/veil
 - a. **He 6:19** "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain" (ESV)
 - b. It is "heaven itself, all that heaven is and all that heaven holds"
 - ii. Hope: This is what holds us securely to what is within the veil...heaven
 - a. Hope is the product of faith
 - iii. Faith: This is the product of the Word
 - a. **Ro 10:17** "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
 - b. No Word no Faith thus...
 - iv. Word: This is the revealed mind of God
 - a. **I Co 2:16** "For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ."
 - b. This mind of God His Word is not w/o evidence.

- v. Evidence/Substance: This is the proof of truth
 - a. **I Jn 1:1** "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life"
 - 1. **Lk 1:1-4**
 - 2. Our, "faith which comes by hearing the word of God rests solidly upon the sufficient and conclusive and compelling evidence that the Bible is exactly what it claims to be..."
- C. To many use the word faith out of context
 - 1. Quotes from brethren:
 - i. "There is no way to prove that God exists. We are compelled to accept the idea of the existence of God by faith."
 - ii. "As indicated earlier, there is not enough evidence anywhere to absolutely prove God, but there is adequate evidence to justify the assumption or the faith that God exists."
 - iii. "Hence, it is more reasonable to take the short leap of faith that is required in Christian belief than it is to take the long leap of faith that is required in atheism. Absolute, dogmatic, unequivocal, complete evidence is often not possible, but a strong presumption is demonstrable."
 - 2. To use the word faith out of step with evidence is to use it out of context.
- D. What about the great men of faith?
 - 1. "By faith" Able offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain
 - i. **He 11:4**
 - 2. "By faith" Noah...prepared an ark for the saving of his household
 - i. **He 11:7**
 - 3. "By faith" Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance... He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.
 - i. **He 11:8; Ro 4:20-21**
 - 4. Question
 - i. Were Abel, Noah and Abraham just guessing?
 - ii. Were each of them responding to an assumption or strong probability?
 - iii. Were they acting on no evidence?
- E. The Word of God is the evidence (Quote **Ro 10:17**)
 - 1. Biblical faith involves...
 - i. Noticing & reacting to the facts of the internal (Bible) & external (creation).
 - a. Internal:
 - 1. Over 40 different writers
 - 2. Over 1,500 year period
 - 3. Zero contradictions

- b. External
 - 1. Creation can't be explained w/o there being a God
 - 2. **Ro 1:20**
- 2. Faith in the biblical sense means taking God at His Word.
 - i. A Word that can be proven based on evidence to be authentic, from God.

III. The Bible Sets Forth A Pattern (**I Co 4:6**) (TURN THERE)

- A. Defining the word pattern
 - 1. Webster's Dictionary:
 - i. "a form or model proposed for imitation" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
 - 2. Brother Roy Deaver said it best, "A pattern is something which is worthy of imitation and which is intended to be imitated."
- B. Not everyone will except there is a pattern.
 - 1. Victor L. Hunter in the Mission Magazine wrote...
 - i. "The problem with a restoration theology is it rests on the premise that the mission of the church is to set up a true church in which all the details of church life are exactly like they were in a first century world. It functions on the assumption that there is a blueprint or pattern in the New Testament that the church is to reduplicate in each succeeding generation. Such theology makes the church's mission egocentric and past-oriented rather than outward looking and future-oriented."
 - 2. A.T. DeGroot member of the Christian Church or Disciples of Christ wrote...
 - i. "...the assumption is made that the New Testament is the vehicle or container of a pattern of church specifications...From the foregoing survey of the experience of Disciples of Christ and the Churches of Christ, we may conclude that the more specifically the restoration plea has been defined in terms of governmental, organizational, and ritualistic pattern of behavior, the less success it has had as an effective and cohesive force in the Christian world."
- C. God has always given instructions to follow (patterns)
 - 1. Abel – sacrifice
 - i. **Gn 4:4, 7; He 11:4**
 - 2. Noah – building the ark
 - i. **Gn 6:13-16; He 11:7**
 - 3. Moses – building the tabernacle
 - i. **Ex 25:40; He 8:5; Ex 40:16**
- D. The N.T. is the pattern for this dispensation
 - 1. Jesus was set forth as a perfect example to be followed.
 - i. **I Pt 2:21** "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example**, that you should follow His steps" [emphasis mine]

2. The natural pattern of the N.T. is inherent in the fact that the N.T. is the "Lord's testament"
 - i. **Mt 26:28** "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (KJV)
 - ii. **He 9:15** "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament..." (KJV)
3. A testament is not to be taken lightly.
 - i. **Ga 3:15** "To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified." (ESV)
4. A testament that has been confirmed by God is to be adhered to, taken seriously and followed precisely.

CONCLUSION

1. In order to obtain authority for something in the Bible we first must "know" it is inspired based on the evidence that proves it is perfect. We then can have faith based on the perfect Word, which allows us to know there is a pattern that must be adhered to. This enables us to reach the conclusion we must have authority for all that we do and that this authority is attainable.
2. Knowing that we can obtain authority which will be absolute truth helps each of us realize the importance of listening to the testament giver, that being Christ Jesus.
 - a. He shed His blood to make perfect this "New Testament" a better testament built on better promises.
 - i. **He 8:6**
 - b. Does it not make sense to listen to one that knows us so well as to give us a perfect blueprint to live a fulfilled life both here on earth and forever in heaven?
3. INVITATION