

FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

02 - THE WORD OF GOD

TWO GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT THE BIBLE

1.- THE BIBLE IS THE AUTHORITATIVE WORD OF GOD.

A.- The Bible Contains Internal Claims, Evidences And Affirmations About Its Authority.

B.- The Holy Spirit Grants An Inner Assurance To The Reader That It Is God's Word When Reading It.

2.- THE BIBLE IS THE TRUTHFUL AND INERRANT WORD OF GOD.

Inerrancy: Scripture Tells The Truth Regarding Everything It Addresses And Does Not Affirm Anything Contrary To What It Teaches.

THREE GUIDING PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE BIBLE

1.- REVELATION –One of the main purposes for the Bible is to reveal God to us.

Ezekiel 38:23 (NIV) *“And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.”*

Lesson: God's word was revealed to humanity in a progressive manner; its revelation is now complete.

Hebrews 1:1-3 (CSB) *“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. 2 In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”*

Lesson: God Warns That We Must Not Add Or Remove From The Bible (His Revelation).

Revelation 22:18-19 (NIV) *“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.”*

Lesson: Through the Bible, God has revealed all that is necessary for us to know.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (NASB) *“for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may*

become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of evil desires.

2.- INSPIRATION – Meaning, “God breathed”. Here we are referring to the authorship and by extension the inerrancy of the Bible.

1 Corinthians 2:13 (NKJV) *“These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB) *“All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.”*

What portion of scripture is inspired by God? All of it.

What is God's Word (*The Bible*) profitable for according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17?

A.- Teaching

B.- Rebuking

C.- Correction

D.- Training in Righteousness

3.- ILLUMINATION – Illumination is the supernatural guidance and ministry of the Holy Spirit, who enables all who believe in Christ, to understand the Scriptures.

Luke 24:45 (KJV) *“Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.”*

James 1:23-25 (NKJV) *“For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”*

JESUS’ TESTIMONY ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

1.- Jesus Affirmed That He Is The Central Theme Of The Bible

John 5:39 (NASB) *“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of Me.”*

Matthew 26:24 (NASB) *“The Son of Man is going away just as it is written about Him...”*

2.- Jesus Said He Came To Fulfill Scripture And Not To Change It Or Nullify It.

Matthew 5:17 (NIV) *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”*

3.- Jesus Affirmed The Importance Of Every Word In The Scriptures.

Luke 18:31 (NASB) *“All the things that are written through the prophets shall be accomplished.”*

4.- Jesus Made His Teaching Equal With Written Scripture.

Matthew 24:35 (ESV) *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”*

1 Corinthians 2:16 (NLT) *“For, ‘Who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?’ But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.”*