

We Have All Truth

The challenges against God's word are endless! In every way imaginable, people have tried to convince us that the Bible (1) is not God's word; (2) is just the words of men; or, (3) does not contain all truth. It is this last idea on which we will concentrate our study in this paper.

There have been those for centuries who have claimed to receive revelations from God. They are not, in their minds, challenging the authenticity of the Bible, but believe that truth is continuing to be revealed to us. There are also those who believe we must listen to them rather than the Bible. They believe they have higher knowledge than others. To many the Bible is good, but it is not all-sufficient!

To understand the sufficiency of the Scriptures, we need to go to the Scriptures for our answer. What has been revealed to us in God's word? The only way to know the mind of God is through the words that he has given to us. Out of respect for God, we must accept the things which he has revealed to us. The Psalmist said, "*For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven*" (Psalms 119:89).

Pilate, during the trials of Jesus, asked Jesus, "*What is truth?*" (John 18:38). This philosophical question has been around for centuries and is still on the minds of many today. One chapter before this question was asked by Pilate, Jesus had answered that question with this statement, "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*" (John 17:17). Thus, God's revealed word is not only where we find truth, but is truth in itself. It is the very standard by which we live.

So, what does God's truth reveal to us

about its sufficiency? Do we have all truth, or is there truth yet to be revealed? The answer to this question, accepted honestly, will settle forever many of the false doctrines that have been taught in this world. It will also help us to understand that we do not need to listen to some so-called "latter-day-prophet", but we can turn to the Holy Scriptures and find the answers we need and the rules for living our lives on this Earth. It also means that we do not need to listen to what some religion tells us the Bible says, but we can go to the Scriptures and search them and find our answers (Compare the Bereans in Acts 17:11).

As Jesus was preparing his apostles for when he would no longer be on Earth, he told them that he would send the Holy Spirit to them. One of the things the Spirit would do for them would be to guide them "*into all truth*" (John 16:13). Notice where this truth came from – (1) He would not speak his words, but would only speak those things which he hears (John 16:13); (2) He would receive the message from Jesus and would give it to the Apostles (John 16:14); (3) The words of Jesus would come from the Father (John 16:15). Thus, the Spirit would guide the apostles into all the revealed word of God.

Jesus taught us that the words that he spoke would be those which would be used to judge us (John 12:48). Why these words as opposed to someone else's words? Jesus did not speak his words but those which the Father commanded him (John 12:49). Whatever the Father spoke, Jesus spoke (John 12:50). Therefore, since we will be judged by these words, then these words are all-sufficient!

Those who would be converted to Christ

were to be taught the truth, and their responsibility to it. In Matthew 28:20, Jesus instructs us to teach them to observe all things which he commanded us. That which would bring about the salvation of men and keep them saved would be the truth revealed to us in God's word. We, therefore, need nothing else.

When Paul wrote to the Roman brethren, he was ready to come to Rome and preach the word of God to them. He recognized that the word of God was God's power to salvation to everyone. Again, there is nothing else that we need. He also helped us to understand that the word of God is what instills faith in us (Romans 1:15-17; 10:17).

How do we know we have all truth? Note the following passages:

- I. 2 Timothy 3:16,17
 - A. All scripture is inspired by God.
 - B. Scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.
 - C. Scripture is given that we may be complete, that is, completely furnished unto all good works.
 - D. In reviewing this verse, what is lacking? Nothing! Why? Because we have all truth.
- II. 2 Peter 1:3
 - A. God has given unto us all things which pertain to life and godliness.
 - B. There is no need for new "revelations" today, as we already have the all-sufficient word of God.
- III. Jude 3
 - A. Jude commanded them to earnestly contend for the faith.

- B. That which Jude is discussing is the word of God which had already been revealed to the saints.
- C. This word gave them the tools they needed to fight for the truth. They had all they needed.
- D. The message delivered to the saints was consistent and all-sufficient.

IV. Revelation 22:18,19

- A. The principle set forth in these verses is consistent with other passages of scripture dealing with adding to or taking from God's word (Such as Deuteronomy 5:32; 12:32).
- B. Those who would add to the word of God will be punished by God.
- C. Those who would take from the word of God will have their names taken from the Lamb's book of life.
- D. Therefore, latter day revelations are erroneous! Therefore, those who would tell us they have more knowledge and we need to listen to them are those we need to avoid.

Since God's word has been revealed to us in its fullness, we need nothing more and nothing less. We have all truth!

To back up a little in our study, we want to look again at John 16:13 and the expression found in this verse that reveals what the Spirit would do when he came to the apostles. He would guide them **"into ALL truth"** (emphasis mine, C.C.). Since God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2), then we can understand that he would do everything he said he would do. If he said he would guide them into all truth, then he did so.

To say that we do not have all truth is to say that God lied, and therefore, we must contend that we do not have any truth. If God lied, then he is not God. If he is not God, then there can be no word of God. However, we know there is a God. Therefore, we have his word. And in his word, he told us that we have all truth. What a great blessing we have in having all that we need to guide us into Heaven.

Having all truth gives us a standard by which we can live (Psalm 119:105). Having all truth, we can help others obey that truth (Matthew 28:18-20). Having all truth, we can rest assured that all of the promises God has given us are true and we can live our lives in confidence of an eternity with God. *"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"* (2 Timothy 1:12).

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the 27th Annual Mid-West Lectures, "God's Precious Promises." To hear or view the complete lesson go to www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm or contact the 39th Street Church of Christ 15331 East 39th Street Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA

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