

God's Word and The Christian (#3)

Text : **Luke 19: 11-27**

INTRODUCTION :

By our previous two lessons in this series we have seen that :

A. The bible claims to be a revelation from God ... and we believe that it is.

1. 2000 times in the Old Testament writers claim to be speaking God's words.
2. Likewise, the New Testament writers claimed to be speaking words from God.

B. If (*as we believe*) the bible is from God, it is both true and authoritative.

1. Words from God can be neither doubted nor debated.
2. Words from God cannot be changed by man. (*Truth is always true – constant.*)
3. Words from God carry the authority of God so they must be obeyed.

C. We addressed the erroneous claims that the bible only contains the words from God, but is not all and only words from God.

1. Through the centuries, God has spoken to men in many ways :
 - a. He spoke directly to the patriarchs and some of the prophets.
 - b. He spoke indirectly, e.g., via angels, out of the burning bush and out of whirlwind.
2. He “moved” 40 different men to write His words down to be preserved.
 - a. Those men wrote over a period of 1500 years.
 - b. They were widely differing people. (*culture, nationality, language, era, etc.*)
3. The bible expressly states that it was written by men who were inspired of God.
 - a. **II Pet. 1: 21-** for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
 - b. **I Cor. 14: 37-** If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

D. Neither the process of inspiration nor the reason for selection is explained.

1. Holy men wrote what they were “moved by the Holy Spirit” to write.
 - a. The message came from God into the mind of a man.
 - b. The man wrote the message using words and a style with which he was familiar.
2. The scriptures demonstrate that the specific words came from God.
 - a. **Gal. 3:16-** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.

- b. The Apostles could not make a doctrinal argument based upon the fact that a word is singular rather than plural unless the specific word came from God.

3. This is called *verbal inspirations*.

THEREFORE : Christians believe the whole bible to be “**verbally**” inspired.

E. Every part of the scriptures is equally inspired.

1. There are no myths in the bible or things which are merely cultural values.
 - a. The creation happened as recorded in Genesis.
 - b. The universal flood is an historical fact.
 - c. The miracles happened exactly as recorded in the scriptures.
- * **To deny the miracles is to deny the deity of Christ. Rom. 1: 4**
2. **THEREFORE** : Christians believe the whole bible to be equally inspired, i.e., we believe in the “**plenary**” inspiration of the scriptures.

F. Only the original manuscripts were inspired by God, not translations thereof.

1. There is no divinely inspired translation of the scriptures.
2. There are accurate translations, but no perfect translation.
 - a. There is some interpretation in all translation. (*All translator have bias.*)
 - b. Translations become obsolete as languages evolve.
3. There are a multitude of translations from which to choose.
 - *a. Choosing a translation is like choosing a teacher; always verify.
 - b. It is best to compare more than one translation.

Note : *A “paraphrase” is not a translation .. just a commentary.*

In the history of world there has never been any other book like the bible. With this lesson we will begin considering how this is significant to us ?

I. The word of God is the only way one can know God.

- A. When we look at nature, we can observe that there is a creator, i.e., God.
 1. **The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” Psa. 14: 1**
 2. **Rom. 1: 20-** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
 3. We observe God in His creation, but creation cannot teach us about Him.

B. The bible teaches man that God is timeless and eternal.

1. Modern man worships himself and his own knowledge.
 - a. Man will not accept anything that he cannot explain; science is supreme.
 - b. Man must eliminate God before he can rule himself. *If God is, HE is supreme.*
 - c. Absent God ... man is man's highest value.
2. The bible teaches us that God existed before the earth and that He was it's source.
 - a. **Gen. 1: 1- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**
 - b. **THEREFORE :** God owns the earth and all who live on it.
**Psa. 24:1- The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,
The world, and those who dwell in it. (cf – Psa. 50: 12)**
 - c. Since all belongs to God, all is subject to His control.

C. God reigns sovereign over all that is His. (Logical : God has will for His creation)

1. He has a will for man and that will is revealed ONLY in the bible.
2. God rewards all those who obey Him.
 - a. **Heb. 5: 9- And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,**
 - b. **Rev. 2:10- Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**
3. Man must submit to the sovereign reign of God because He punishes all who don't.
 - a. **Nah. 1: 3- The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, And Ezek. 18: 4
the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. Prov. 11:21**
 - b. Compare ... **II Thes. 1: 2-10**

** When this world ends, God will take only those who obeyed Him home to be with Him outside the realm of time.*

II. The bible is the only way man can learn the will of God.**A. Since the bible is words from God, the bible is backed by the authority of God.**

1. When the bible speaks, God is speaking.
2. Thus, to disobey the bible is to disobey God. (*Disobedience is rebellion.*)
3. **“Partial obedience is complete disobedience.”**

B. One's attitude toward God's word directly reflects his attitude toward God.

1. To love or to ignore the word is to love or to ignore the giver of the word ... God.
 - a. Those who don't read the bible ignore God.
 - b. The one who does not seek God's will in his life ignores God.
2. Thus, to disobey the word of God is to disobey God.
 - a. Ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse.
 - b. "Officer, I didn't know this was a no parking zone." **Still get a ticket.**
 - c. **Compare ... II Thes. 1: 8**
3. The point is, one cannot be true to God without being true to His word, the bible.

THUS : *Anyone who claims to take God seriously and takes His book lightly is engaged in deception ... possibly even self-deception.*

C. One cannot have a saved relationship with God apart from His holy word.

1. Faith occurs only in response to learning the message of His word.
 - a. Salvation in Christ is the theme of the entire bible.
 - b. **Rom. 10: 17-** **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.**
 - c. Faith is a response of the heart to the sacrifice and invitation of Christ.

Heb. 4: 2 - For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.
2. The word of God (bible) is directly related to one's ability to be saved.
 - a. Even after speaking with an angel, Cornelius still needed a preacher to "**speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.**" **Acts 11:14**
 - b. Peter reminds Christians that they are "born again" through God's word.

I Pet. 1:23- **for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.**
3. One cannot mature in Christ and remain faithful without the word of God.
 - a. **II Thess. 2:14-15** **It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the ordinances which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. I Pet. 2: 2**
 - b. We are each individually responsible to verify that what we are taught is true.

Acts 17: 11- **Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**

III. The scriptures are an all sufficient revelation.

A. The inspired word of God (*the bible*) claims to be the complete revelation of God.

1. **II Tim. 3:16-17** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
2. **II Pet. 1: 2-3** Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that 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.

B. Many today advocate the need for ongoing revelation.

1. They cite the changing of cultures and circumstances as the reason for why new more up-to-date revelation is needed.
 - a. The bible teaches that culture must conform to God's word, not vise-versa.
 - b. **Titus 1: 12-13** (*Also apply to Sodom, Rome, etc.*)
2. Many seek new revelation to sustain extra biblical teachings.
 - a. "Charismatics" refer to receiving "a word from the lord."
In effect, this is to claim they have the gift of prophecy.
 - b. A couple of religions elect men who are by reason of their election are supposed to become inspired of God to speak for Him.

C. These claims of inspiration contradict the bible :

1. Peter says we have been given "**everything pertaining to life and godliness.**" **II Pet 1:3**
 - a. If we need more, Peter was mistaken about our being given "everything."
 - b. If Peter was mistaken, the bible is not reliable.
2. Paul says scripture reveals all a person needs to know to serve God. **II Tim. 3: 16-17**
 - a. If Paul is wrong here we cannot trust any of the books he wrote.
 - b. He wrote almost half the New Testament.

D. The Apostles were given all truth.

1. **John 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 that I said to you.
* This was fulfilled in **Acts 2: 1ff.**
2. **John 16: 12-13** I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.
13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
3. Compare ... **John 17: 17-18**

E. The Apostles taught all of the truth.

1. They withheld nothing that would be of spiritual benefit to us.
Acts 20:20- how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,
2. The Apostle Paul said he taught God's complete plan.
Acts 20:27- For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

CONCLUSION :**A. How grateful we should be for the gift of God's word.**

1. By it God reveals Himself to us.
 - a. We can come to know His nature.
 - b. We learn what pleases and what displeases Him.
2. The bible answers the questions for which we can get answers nowhere else.
 - a. Where did I come from ?
 - b. Why am here ?
 - c. Is there something after this life is over ?

B. God has revealed Himself, but man is responsible to learn what has been revealed.

1. He has given us everything we need to know to be saved. ***Read God's instructions !***
2. He has given us everything we need to know to serve Him. ***Read God's manual !***

C. What will we do with the treasure with which he has entrusted us ?

1. Will we bury it and guard it ?
2. Will we use it the His glory and our benefit ?

Apply Text**INVITATION :**

Have you used it to find your way to salvation ?

Lesson Text :

Remind Audience .. Text will be applied at the end of the lesson.

Luke 19: 11-27

11 While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. **12** So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and *then* return. **13** "And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business *with this* until I come *back*.' **14** "But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' **15** "When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. **16** "The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' **17** "And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' **18** "The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' **19** "And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.' **20** "Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; **21** for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' **22** "He *said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? **23** 'Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' **24** "Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' **25** "And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas *already*.' **26** "I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. **27** "But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."