

Bible- The Authority Part Two

Due to the length of this topic the lesson begun in Bible- The Authority Part One will now continue and conclude as the lesson Bible- The Authority Part Two.

We must follow and keep the Word of God

John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” How eloquently and simply put by Jesus Himself as recorded by John. The Bible gives us Jesus commandments. If we love Him, we will keep His commandment, if we do not love Him, we will not. Anyone can understand this simple message.

Philippians 2:15-16 “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.” No matter how dark the world around us may be if we are obedient to God, by following His Bible, and therefore Him, we will make ourselves pure before Him and obtain salvation. If we hold true to the Bible that God has given us, we will be lights to others in the world, by attempting to teach others that are willing to hear God’s Word.

2 Thessalonians 2:14-15 “Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” God gave us the Bible through inspiration so that we can be saved. God wants us to be saved. If we follow God’s will in the Bible we will be saved, if we choose not to, we will not.

1 Timothy 4:8-12 “For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. These things command and teach. Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” We all understand that exercise is good for our bodies and will help us to be stronger. This is important, but compared to eternal salvation it is nothing. No matter how fit or unfit my body is, has nothing to do with my eternal destination. Yes, exercise of the body is good for our lives here on earth, but it will not save us eternally. If we exercise our minds by learning and doing God’s will, which we have in the Bible, we will become strong Christians that are ready for eternal life in Heaven. After all how much more important is our soul’s eternal destination, than our body which will leave behind in eternity? Do we spend time exercising our Bible knowledge? If we do not, how can we expect to get to Heaven?

2 Timothy 1:13 “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” We must know the words in the Bible if we are to be able to hold them close to us and live by them. We must open our Bibles so that we can know the Bible. Yes, this includes Bible class and worship times, but it also includes time with the Bible at home.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Because God wants us all to be saved, Jesus both died for us and then rose from the dead. However, God also gave us the Bible through inspiration, so we can know what He expects from us in order to obtain salvation. Salvation is not automatic, we have a part to play as well. The Bible tells us how to live in a way in which He will save us. Ignorance of the Bible, just like not following the Bible will lead us to eternal damnation. So when we study and grow in knowledge of the Bible, and obey God’s words in it, we can know we will be saved.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 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.” We have the Holy Scriptures so that we know the path that leads to Heaven. We can by obedience to God, follow the Bible like a map to Heaven. If we don’t follow God’s map, we will not make it to Heaven.

2 Timothy 4:1-4 “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; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” How can we know sound doctrine from false doctrine unless we know God’s Word? How can we teach against false doctrine, or extort fellow Christians if we do not know the Bible? God gave us the Bible, not to gather dust in our homes, but so that we could put His will in our minds and gain salvation, if we are obedient to Him.

2 Peter 3:1-4 “This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” If we do not know God’s Bible, we leave ourselves open to all who might come along and try and lead us astray. Many people do not believe in God, and know very little about the Bible. By knowing the Bible we can make sure we stay on the path God would have us walk, which leads to Heaven. By not knowing the Bible, we put ourselves on the path that leads to Hell. We need to keep the Bible’s teachings from God in our minds, so we will know when someone is leading us down the wrong path, and we can keep ourselves on the correct path.

Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” God expects us to know His word, and to know it well enough that, when necessary, we can contend for it. We must know God’s Word in order to obey His will. When we grow in knowledge of God’s Word, we will be able to lovingly try and teach others. Teaching others sometimes means attempting to correct other peoples wrong

teachings or beliefs, which will cause them to miss Heaven. This is always to be done with the attitude that we care about them and want them to go to Heaven.

We must handle the Word correctly

2 Corinthians 4:1-2 “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.” Through Paul, God tells us handle His Word with care. We are instructed to teach God’s Word to others truthfully and not misrepresent or teach false hoods about God to other people. We must therefore know God’s Book well enough ourselves, through our own study, so that we can rightly teach those that want to hear God’s Word. We are to teach God’s Word accurately and truthfully, as He wants it taught, not to achieve some hidden agenda or our own.

Ephesians 5:6-11 “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” We must know the Bible well enough so that we do not deceive ourselves, or let others deceive us about what it says. God wants us all to be children of light, and we can be if we learn and obey God’s will, which is found in the Bible. We have all sinned and fallen short, but we can all leave darkness behind and be children of light, if we let God’s bible be our guide.

2 Peter 2:1 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” and **2 Peter 3:9-10** “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” We have to know God’s Bible so we can recognize false teachers and not fall for their false teaching. God wants everyone to be saved and has given all mankind the opportunity to obtain salvation. However, Judgement day is coming and we will held accountable for how we have lived. God will receive or condemn us based on our following or not following His will, which is in the Bible.

Warnings- do not handle the Word wrongly

Deuteronomy 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” and **Proverbs 30:5-6** “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” and **Revelation 22:18-19** “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the

plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” The Bible teaches us to **NOT** change or alter the word of God. We can easily see from these scriptures God does not want His Word changed by anyone, and it is sinful when someone does. Someone that does try to change the Word of God and teach different doctrines than that which is found in the Bible are false teachers.

John 12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” Jesus tells us, by inspiration through John, how important the Bible is. The Bible is the Word of God and its very words will be our judge on Judgement Day. We can not accept Jesus and reject the Bible. Jesus’ very words tell us following Him means following the Bible. We can not be obedient to God and disregard the Bible.

Romans 10:2-3 “For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.” We can not have knowledge of God without knowing the Bible. No matter how much zeal we think we might have, it is meaningless unless that zeal is guided by our knowledge of God’s Bible. Through knowing the Bible, we can know if we are living the way God wants us to or not. If we are not obedient to God, which means we are following God’s instruction in the Bible, it does not matter how zealous we might be for God, it is useless.

Galatians 1:8-9 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” God has given us the Bible, through inspiration, so that we can know what His will for us is. Thus, any and all doctrine that someone teaches which is not found in the Bible is false, because it does not come from God. It does not matter who someone claims to be, or where they claim their teaching comes from, if it can not be found in the Bible it is error and will not lead you to Heaven. All of God’s instructions for us are in His Bible.

Hebrews 2:1-3 “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;” How will we escape condemnation eternally if we do not heed the words in God’s Bible? We will not. God loves us and wants us to be saved, so He gave us all we need to obtain salvation in the Bible. Should we choose to ignore the Bible and live in ways that displease God, we will lose out on Heaven.

Hebrews 5:12-14 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those

who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” When one first becomes a Christian, they are in the early stages of learning to live a life that is obedient to God. At this early stage, one might not have the deepest knowledge of the Bible. We all start somewhere, which is fine. However, over time a Christian’s knowledge of the Bible should be growing. A faithful Christian should be growing in knowledge of the Bible so they can become a stronger Christian, and so they can help lead others to Christ. How can one grow as a Christian or teach others about God if they know very little about the Bible? God expects all Christians to grow in their knowledge of the Bible over time.

Conclusion

Hopefully, in this two-part lesson in which we have looked at the Bible and its authority, and some of our questions about the Bible have been answered. The Bible is the inspired Word of God that He gave us so that we can understand how to go to Heaven. God gave us everything we need to know in order to live a life that pleases Him, and gets us into Heaven, IF we follow the instructions, He has given us. We can choose to ignore the Bible and therefore throw away any chance of Heaven, but why do that? Why not take advantage of the fact that God loves us enough that, He provided us with all we need for eternal salvation in the form of His book, the Bible?