

The Bible The Word of God

Introduction

Proverbs 3:3 states: “Let love (mercy, Heb. *hesed*) and faithfulness (truth, Heb. *emet*) never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.” We can learn from this scripture that we need to embrace both the subjective (love) and objective (truth) nature of life--- The inner as well as the outer. Subjectivity (things that cannot be confirmed by others) and objectivity (things that are outside an individual which can be mutually perceived, measured and discussed) must both be perceived as valid to Christians. These two polarizations represent the diversity in which God created the universe. Prayer, personal relationship to Jesus, conscience, matters of the heart and emotions are all within the subjective realm. The outside world of facts and information, things that can be proven and measured through the senses and commonly perceived, fall into the objective realm.

For example: No matter what hot water feels like (subjective) we can tell if it is truly boiling by noticing the bubbles or taking the temperature (objective).

God gave man an objective standard of truth with which to live by when He breathed the Holy Scriptures. God did not leave man only to himself, his own perceptions and subjective theories, but God gave an objective viewpoint on the nature of life through the pages of the written Word. This objective viewpoint (truth) has been once and for all delivered to the world through the Word. (Scriptures)
We now have something we can measure experience by, something to relate “feelings” to: the Bible. The Word of God is the rule and standard for all life.

Therefore, the importance of internalizing this standard, making it live within us as an ever present ideal in our minds cannot be overemphasized. In Matthew 24:35 Jesus says, “**Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away**”.
No matter what our experiences are, we can take comfort in knowing that we have a source of absolute truth in any given situation.

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How Did We Get Our Bible?

I. The Canon of Scripture

The definition of the word canon is “reed”. A reed was used as a measuring rod in Old Testament days and eventually meant “standard” or “rule of faith”.

The word “canon” applied to scripture means “an officially accepted list of books”.

Keep in mind that the church did not create the canon or books included in what we call Scripture. Instead the church recognized the books that were inspired from their inception. They were inspired by God when written.

II. The guidelines that were used to test books for inclusion in the New Testament canon were:

1. Is it authoritative? Did it come from the hand of God?
2. Is it prophetic? Was it written by a man of God?
3. Is it authentic? The church fathers had an attitude of “ if in doubt, throw it out” policy. This enhanced their discernment of canonical books.
4. Is it dynamic? Did it come with the life transforming power of God?
5. Was it received, collected, read and used? Was it accepted by the people of God?

III. The apostle Peter acknowledged Paul’s work as parallel to Old Testament Scripture.

*Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the **other Scriptures**, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:15-16)*

There were three reasons for a need to determine which books should form the Bible (canon).

1. A heretic, Marcion (AD 140), developed his own canon and began to propagate it. The church needed to offset his influence by determining what was the real canon of the New Testament Scripture.
2. Many Eastern churches were using books in services that were definitely less than authoritative. It called for a decision concerning the canon.
3. Edict of Diocletian (AD 303) declared the destruction of the sacred books of the Christians. Who wanted to die for just a religious book? They needed to know!

truth. An experience without objective scriptural backup eventually can become deception, because our feelings and senses can lead us astray if left to themselves. But when the Word and Spirit agree then we can be assured of the truth. Neither subjective experiences or objective facts and information alone can stand by themselves to adequately substantiate spiritual reality.. We need both: the personal revelation of Jesus as Lord (which is by the Spirit) and the written Word to teach us of His ways.

Bind mercy and truth around your necks and live in the full counsel of God.

Memory Verse:

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:4

Alt. Memory Verse:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalms 119:105

The Authority of God's Word

In submitting to the Lordship of Jesus we must also submit to the absolute authority of the written Word of God. God's written Word is God's thoughts, opinions, ideas and personality. God's Word is His expressed will to man.

1. How were the Scriptures originally given?

a. (2 Timothy 3:16) _____

b. (2 Peter 1:20-21) _____

2. What profit are the Scriptures to the believer? (2 Timothy 3:16)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

3. As newborn babes, having committed ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus, what are we exhorted to do?

a. (1 Peter 2:2)

b. (2 Timothy 2:15)

4. As we drink the milk of the Word, what will happen? (1 Peter 2:2)

5. In John 1:1 what name is given to Jesus?

6. What did Jesus say about God's Word being His expressed will to Man? (Luke 6:46)

7. In light of this what must we do with any reasonings, imaginations, or any thought that would exalt itself above God's Word? (2 Corinthians 10:5)

8. What did Jesus say was the spiritual "food" of the believer? (Matthew 4:4)

9. What has the God of this world done? (II Corinthians 4:4)

10. After coming out from a world filled with carnality and sin, we find that our minds have been warped and molded by sin and the things of this world. How is our mind transformed?
(Romans 12:2, Ephesians 5:26-27)

11. As a result of the washing of the water of the Word, what will we be?
(Ephesians 5:27, 2 Corinthians 3:18)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

12. What can exclude us from the life of God? (Ephesians 4:17-18)

13. Why do God's people perish? (Hosea 4:6)

14. What will happen if we reject the knowledge of God's Word and forget His Law? (Hosea 4:6)

15. In the spiritual armor of the Christian, what is the Word called?
(Ephesians 6:17)

16. Give a description of the sword. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

As we dwell in the Word of God, its edge cuts away from our lives all things that are offensive and evil. The Word in our mouths pierces the hearts of those who hear us and brings conviction of sin.

17. **Spiritual warfare**—How did Jesus answer the devil when He was tempted? (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)

18. **Christian Growth**—If you are feeling dry or lifeless the Word of God can do something to help. What are Jesus' recorded words to us? (John 6:63)

19. How can you prove your love to Jesus? (John 14:23)

20. Who did Jesus call His mother and His brothers? (Luke 8:21)

The Reasons to Study, Know, Believe, and Act on the Word of God

21. What are four things that result in the life of a believer who hears the Word of God and does it? (Acts 20:32, 2 Peter 1:4)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

It isn't enough to only have a revelation of who Jesus is (the Son of God) but the Holy Spirit will always lead the truly seeking heart to a deep understanding of the Word of God. We are incapable of understanding the Scriptures prior to being born again but salvation and the infilling of the Spirit lead into an understanding of the Word so that we may know better who this Jesus is.

*The man without the Spirit _____
_____ the things that come from the Spirit of God,
for they are _____ to him, and _____
_____ them, because they are
spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes
judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject
to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind
of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the
mind of Christ.*

(1 Corinthians 2:14-16)

Conclusion:

God doesn't do things half way. He doesn't reveal things subjectively (or inwardly) without giving abundant objective verification of His