

Fisher's Foundations **VERACITY OF THE WORD**

Lesson 2

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS CLASS:

Our aim is to convey the importance of God's Holy Word! We want to strongly affirm that the Bible is the final court of arbitration for all faith and practice regarding mankind of every generation. It is without question the inerrant, infallible revelation of deity to His creation.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

INTRO:

Our Christian faith is historic and evidential (Acts 17:2, 3), and the Bible has been verified to be totally true and of divine origin. Webster's Dictionary tells us that veracity means: truthfulness with precise accuracy and that's exactly what the Bible is about. As God's children, we must have a proper view of the Word of God. There is no spiritual growth—none—apart from the Word of God! We do pray for illumination and understanding. But the Scriptures don't become the Word of God when they are "quicken to," (made alive in) your human spirit ...in some reHEMA illumination, but the Scriptures already are God's inerrant Word to man.

Many don't recognize there's a famine in the land, not for steak and lobster, but for the Word of God! How many preachers today faithfully teach the whole counsel of God? How many even believe all of it? So much preaching today is totally irrelevant or made up of one antidotal story after another, but it's God's Word that doesn't return void. On the day of Pentecost, after the phenomena in the upper room, Peter was very relevant as he preached the Word properly. He was addressing the questions that were in the people's minds—highlighting their main question: **"What does this mean?"** He declared, **"This is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel"** (v. 16).

Now, we are living in a day of spiritual confusion like never before, when many real and bogus supernatural things are happening in "Jesus Name." Sure, we are to believe in spiritual gifts, but many false teachers and false prophets are distracting the people through slight of hand and slight of mind. They are even drawing the masses away with so called gifts of the Spirit. The emphasis isn't on the Word and man is receiving the glory. They're in it for the money not for God or souls. And some of these "ministers" are pretty convincing, because much of what they teach is true.

Just as Peter did in Acts 2, it is of utmost importance that we give people an explanation from a solid biblical basis for the supernatural phenomena that they are seeing today. Remember, God's Word is the touchstone—it is the guideline, the final court of arbitration, the ultimate authority for all faith and practice in the Church, rather than experience, dreams or feelings!

I've heard about so many interesting dreams and experiences from different seekers and Christians. But listen, if it isn't a biblical experience, I'm not interested, no matter how exotic it is. You see, once you accept experience as truth, you open a Pandora's box with no end to what can happen.

Mormons today will say they experienced a burning in the bosom when they read the book of Mormon and they will seek to have you to feel this too. And every month I hear of people who want to break God's law because they heard something in prayer or from a personal prophecy. I've heard, so called Christians say that God spoke to them, giving them special permission to sleep with their girlfriends,. (ie., "Yes, my son, go for it in the joy of Jesus. Enjoy and be blessed, for I know that you both love each other deeply.") That is so wrong! We need to test the spirits and reject what's not biblical. We can't afford to ignore the warning of Paul: **"that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written...."** (1 Corinthians 4:6 nas), "Do not go beyond what is written" (niv), **"that ye might learn... not to think *of men* (celebrity TV preachers) above that which is written"** (kiv), **"Follow only what is written in the Scriptures"** (ncv). Preachers, where the Bible is silent we must remain silent, and where it speaks we must speak according to the Spirit's leading.

It's sad that so many within Christendom today lean solely on their subjective experiences for direction. Inner sentiment, feelings and spoken words from other Christians that sound so spiritual seem to have more weight than the Bible. But there must be an objective way to test subjective enlightenment and personal revelations or we will all go sideways.

Let's define some things we need to avoid:

Pure Subjectivism: says truth is whatever I feel it is, believe it is, say it is, or want it to be... regardless of what the Bible says. And the only antidote for this kind of weirdness is real objectivity.

Relational Theology: which is one step away from total relativism, means truth is determined by what we hear or experience in prayer, which is somehow more important to us than the written Word we read. That is weird too. It's time to recognize the authority of the written Word – the Bible.

Now think about the promise of the Bible regarding those persons who place their confidence in the inerrancy of the Scriptures:

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock" [Matthew 7:24-25].

Now, of those persons who decide to believe only parts of the Bible, (those parts, that of course line up with their lifestyle), Jesus would strongly address them:

"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall" [Matthew 7:26,27].

Q&A 1. According to what you have read here, please explain what the final results are for those who place their confidence in the inerrancy of the Word of God and those who do not accept all of the Bible as being the true and inspired Word of God.

You can not love God at all, if you do not love His truth found in the Bible! Sure, knowledge can puff up if not wisely applied. But we are not called to study truth as an end in itself—for the sake of merely knowing truth—but we study so we can better worship Jesus, have closer fellowship with God, win souls and equip saints to win souls.

I. THE SCRIPTURES ARE AUTHORITATIVE AND INFALABLE

If the Bible isn't the Word of God, those who have believed it throughout the centuries are embarrassingly mistaken. Those martyrs who have given their lives to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ all died in vain. Thank God this is not the case, however, there are several reasons that verify that the Bible is God's Word. In "Does Inerrancy Matter?" Dr. Montgomery Boice lists four proofs for the Bible's inerrancy.

1. **The Bible itself teaches inerrancy.**
2. **Jesus Christ affirmed the inerrancy of the Scriptures.**
3. **The Church has always believed in the Bible's inerrancy.**
4. **God's holy character demands that His Book is inerrant.**

A. THE BIBLE TEACHES INERRANCY

The Bible without a doubt views itself as God's Message. Over 2,000 times in the Old Testament alone, there are clauses such as "**And God spoke**", "**The Word of God came to Jonah**" and "**God said.**"

The Bible says, "**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**" (2 Timothy 3:16).

That word "*inspiration*" in the original language is **theopneustos**, (teh-op'-nyoo-stos) and is literally translated "**breathed out of the nostrils of God.**" So the Scriptures originated with God exhaling life and truth in to his servants, in to their very thoughts. And God overshadowed them as they flawlessly wrote this truth down.

"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21).

The Apostle Peter reminds us in 2 Peter 1:16-20 that experience is never to be the basis for our beliefs. The Bible is to be our basis and no other book with it. Furthermore, what is contained in the Word is not at all from men's minds, even though it passed through the prophet's minds. They spoke out as God moved through them. Our natural or supernatural experiences are not to be leaned on, they must have a Bible base. All the experiences of the Spirit (His gifts) considered normative in the New Testament Church are still normative today! They can and should be experienced. No matter what any so-called theologian man might say about them, the doctrine, validity and use of these gifts does fall inside the pale of sound Christian orthodoxy! Belief in their validity should never be condemned as heretical, no matter how biblically literate one thinks he is.

Jesus said, "**For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled**" (Matthew 5:18). Jots and tittles are small marks in the Hebrew alphabet, which distinguish one letter from another. This means that all Bible predictions will be fulfilled even the ones that seem insignificant or obscure. You can be absolutely sure, will all be fulfilled, no ifs, ands, or buts about it!

Q&A 2. In the space provided below, please list the four ways that the Scriptures are beneficial to you according to 2 Timothy 3:16.

Q&A 3. What parts of the Bible will definitely not be fulfilled by God?

B. JESUS AFFIRMED INERRANCY

The people who believe that certain passages in the Bible are erroneous or mythical often refer to the first eleven chapters of the Genesis account, which include the facts of creationism and the flood. Jesus Christ, Himself believed in and spoke of these portions of the Scripture as truth. He even utilized the creation account along with the flood as references in His preaching.

"And He answered and said to them, 'Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female'" (Matthew 19:4).

"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:37).

Jesus reaffirmed and confirmed what the Bible says about itself, that every word will be fulfilled.

"Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (Luke 24:44,45).

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 'For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled'" (Matthew 5:17-18).

The Lord Jesus showed from the Old Covenant how those writings referring to Himself, were being fulfilled in Him. Watching prophecy being fulfilled with 100% accuracy should have convinced them, even from that era, that the Scriptures are of divine origin. And with Jesus referring to these passages we can see that He believed in them. He said the Scriptures cannot be broken; therefore we have no grounds to take a lesser view of them and still call ourselves His followers!

C. THE CHURCH CONCURS WITH THE BIBLE'S INERRANCY

Here's some clout for you; the Church of Jesus Christ has believed the Bible to be the Word of God for 1,800 years. This historical fact alone does not prove the divine inerrancy of the Bible. But our generation would be insanely foolish to disregard the age old credibility of the saints of previous centuries! They accepted the Scriptures as God's holy and powerful word.

Martin Luther states, *"The Scriptures, although they were written by men, are not of men nor from men, but from God."*

John Calvin attests, *"We owe to the Scriptures the same reverence which we owe to God; because it has proceeded from Him alone and has nothing belonging to man mixed with it."*

Q&A 4. Does it mean anything to us, that the Church for the past 1,800 years has believed the Bible to be inerrant? If so, please explain in your own words.

D. GOD'S HOLY CHARACTER ATTESTS TO HIS BOOK'S INERRANCY

God's excellent character concurs and proclaims that the Bible is without flaw, because He is flawless.

"...God, who cannot lie, promised before time began" (Titus 1:2).

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

"The entirety of Your word is truth..." (Psalm 119:160).

God brought us infallible revelation through fallible men. The Spirit of God moved on men in such a powerful way so as to give us God's Word.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..." (2 Timothy 3:16).

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20,21).

There are many reasons that prove the Bible was divinely inspired. History is His-story! Yes, the witness of all History verifies its source. All true Science and Archaeology agrees with the Bible.

Many prophecies have been fulfilled just as God said they would be. Today we have countless evidence of changed lives as proof.

If you could find ten people in your local area with similar educational backgrounds, all speaking the same language and ask them to write their opinion on one controversial subject, such as "The meaning of life," it's very hard to get them to agree. But the Bible had 40 different people writing the Message down and they didn't write about one subject, but many very controversial subjects. They came from a wide variety of different backgrounds: Joshua was a military general, Daniel was a prime minister, Peter was a fisherman, and Nehemiah was a cup-bearer.

Most of them were not contemporaries of each other. It took over 1,600 years to write the Bible. They wrote from different settings: Moses wrote from the wilderness, Paul wrote from prison, John wrote from the Island of Patmos. They wrote from three different continents: Africa, Asia and Europe. They wrote in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek and yet with all this there is a perfect unity, a complete harmony in the Bible! There is one theme throughout the whole Bible, "Salvation through the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is seen in every book. Sin is sin in every book – it doesn't change to righteousness anywhere. It all goes together; the Old is the New concealed and the New is the Old revealed!

(Parts of Daniel are in Aramaic—in fact that's the only part of the Bible that's in Aramaic.)

II. THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner” (Hebrews 4:12). God's Word can change you. It can resurrect you from the dead, because it is living and its Author is living!

**“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me,
the Bible has feet, it runs after me,
the Bible has hands, it grabs a hold of me.” —Martin Luther**

THE SECTIONS OF THE BIBLE MAY BE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

A. The Old Testament

1. Books of the Law or the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy).
2. Books of History (Joshua through Esther).
3. Books of Poetry (Job through the Song of Solomon).
4. Books of the Prophets (Isaiah through Malachi).

B. The New Testament

1. The Gospels (Matthew through John).
2. Early Church History and the Basic Model for Church Life (Acts).
3. Letters to the Churches (Romans through Jude).
4. Prophecy (The Revelation).

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING THE BIBLE

1. The Bible will keep a person from sin, (Ps. 119:9-11).
2. The Bible is alive and active; it uncovers error, (Heb. 4:12).
3. The Bible is man's true guide book for life, (2 Tim. 3:16, 17).
4. The Bible works effectively inside of believers to perfect them, (1 Thess. 2:13).
5. The Bible is the revelation of God to man, (Matt. 4:4).
6. The Bible will cleanse Christians when it's read, (Jn. 15:3, Eph. 5:25, 26).
7. The Bible causes people's lives to be fruitful and prosperous when acted on, (Ps. 1:2, 3).
8. The Bible gives victory over all evil when applied in faith, (Ps. 119:11).
9. The Bible gives prayer words for prayer power, (Jn. 15:7).

The study of God's Word is vital for every believer. It initiates spiritual growth in our relationships, with God and our beloved brethren. There is no spiritual growth apart from the Word of God. Regarding revelation—if it's new, it's not true, and if it's true it's not new.

- A. Apply the Bible to your life. Pray: "**Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law**" (Ps. 119:18). Ask God to do this daily, before you sit down to read. Cry out to the Lord, "Please speak to me, turning some of Your printed text into vibrant illumination for me today, Jesus. I need Your Word more than my next breath." And God's Spirit will speak into your spirit-man ...to your heart from His written Word, giving good direction. After having read some passages of God's Word, ask yourself these four questions to glean further understanding.
- 1. What does it mean to me personally?**
 - 2. Personally, what does it say for me to do?**
 - 3. If Jesus were in my situation today, how would He apply these Scriptures? (You can ask Him this).**
 - 4. How should I adjust my attitude, motives, thoughts, behavior and words to please God?**
- B. Commit yourself to obeying God's Word. Unlike the "meditating" done in the world, our meditation is object-focused, and the Word is that special object we look at. After reading the Bible prayerfully, rephrasing it into your own words will help you meditate upon its rich truth. Righteous meditation has to do with reflection, pondering and visualizing yourself doing it.
- C. This verbal process causes the Word to sink deep into your spirit-man where it explodes with fresh illumination and overcoming power.

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (Joshua 1:8).

Success or failure in the Christian life, is dependent on how much of the Word of God you take in on a regular basis and how much of it you obey!

IV. MAN'S OPINION VERSES THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD

The authority of the Scriptures has been clearly established. However, there are actually many alleged Bible teachers within churches today (even on TV and radio) who believe and teach contrary to the Bible and they call themselves Christian leaders. Listen, if I, Kurt von Schleicher, ever teach contrary to what the Bible says, please do not listen to me, but with the Lord being my Helper... I will trust Him to keep me on the right track with Him.

OUR ATTITUDE WILL BE ONE OF:

- A. Obedience.** Once we have a knowledge of the Word of God, we must apply it, doing what it says in all wisdom. Otherwise we forfeit the right to name Jesus as Lord! **"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"** (Luke 6:46).
- B. Humble subjection of all our personal opinions to scriptural authority.** Our preconceived ideas must line up with the Bible, or we should forsake them. **"Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"** (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- C. Holy desire to become more like Jesus with every passing day.** As we see the will of God, our former doctrines, ideas, and imaginations are changed. We literally become increasingly more like Jesus Christ as the Spirit does His work on the inside of us. **"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord"** (2 Corinthians 3:18).

V. WHY THE BIBLE WAS PUT IN TWO COVENANTS

- A. God's covenant revelation to man is a progressive one.
"Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little" (Isaiah 28:9,10).
- B. The Old Covenant was preparatory for the New Covenant.
"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect" (Hebrews 10:1).
- "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope"** (Romans 15:4).
- C. The Old Covenant sets forth beautiful types and shadows of the New Covenant, so that we can gain insight for a functioning church life.
"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Corinthians 10:11).