

IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD?

1 Thess. 2:9-13

Intro: I do not want you to feel from my subject this evening that I have been spending this week trying to answer the question. I have known the answer a long time, and am more convinced of it tonight than I have ever been before.

Last Sunday night I sought to show from Matt. 7 that there are three truths that form the foundation for the life of every child of God. They are:

- 1) The truth that the Bible is the Word of God.
- 2) The revelation which is in the Bible concerning God.
- 3) The doctrine of salvation.

At first glance, these truths might seem quite limited, but the more you think about them, the more you see that they include practically everything in the Bible.

Of the three, there is one that is foundational to the others. It is the first. IF THE BIBLE IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD, THEN WE HAVE NO POSITIVE REVELATION WHICH CAN SERVE AS "A LAMP UNTO OUR FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO OUR PATHS." Even if the Bible only contains the Word of God, then all certainty is shaken!

So--how do we go about to prove that the Bible is the Word of God?

Obviously the subject is too big for us to cover it in one evening. For the present, however, this is all that I plan to give to it. But I hope in the brief time we have tonight to establish some guidelines for you so that you can go on to see further evidence from the Word itself.

Some might feel that it is not right to begin with the Word, but let me draw a parallel between this and seeking to establish whether a certain diamond is a diamond, or just a piece of glass. What would a jeweler do? He would not care how much you paid for it--although this might make him feel that it was genuine, if you paid enough! No, he would want to examine the stone itself! Then, in minutes, he would be able to tell you the truth.

If the Bible is the Word of God, then there are certain things which we ought to be able to expect. I will mention only three tonight:

- 1) It should claim to be.
- 2) It should include certain evidence that it is.
- 3) It should produce certain results.

# I. DOES IT CLAIM TO BE THE WORD OF GOD?

Notice what Paul said in 1 Thess. 2:13. Then, keep in mind that most of what he said was not just a repetition of the OT, but he especially has given us teaching that is not found in the OT.

Look also at 1 Thess. 4:15.

Peter made a similar claim in 1 Pet. 1:23-25. Note also 2 Pet. 3:1, 2.

John also makes a similar claim in 1 John 4:6.

At the same time we need to note what Peter and Paul, especially, claimed for the OT. Cf. 2 Tim. 3:14-17. Then, 2 Pet. 1:20, 21.

From this we can go to 2 Pet. 3:15, 16 where Peter places Paul's epistles in the same category as the OT "scriptures."

So far we have been speaking about the NT and then the claims which they made for the OT.

What about the use of the OT in the NT? You find both quotations and allusions. There are almost 300 quotations, and well over 300 allusions. In fact, the use of the OT in the NT is so great that, if you were to take every reference and every allusion ~~\*\*\*\*~~ out of the NT, you would have no NT left!

Looking at the OT itself there are over 3800 times in the OT when you have the expression, "Thus saith the Lord," or an expression which means the same.

So, from Genesis to Revelation, there is no question but that the Bible claims to be the Word of God. There is much more evidence to this effect which I do not have time to take up tonight.

## II. CAN WE FIND EVIDENCE THAT IT IS THE WORD OF GOD?

What kind of evidence would you expect to find?

Well, you would certainly<sup>-ly</sup> expect it to be both superhuman and supernatural in character. You would expect it to deal with subjects above and beyond the range of man's mind. You would expect it to be free from error. It should not have contradictions. There should be a certain unity about it, even though about 40 different

writers produced it over a period of about 1600 years! What difference, if the same God is the author of all Scripture? And, if this and only this is the Word of God, then it should be a complete book. Nothing additional should be needed.

We can only touch lightly on these tremendous points.

A. The supernatural character of the Bible. Cf. 1 Cor. 2:9, 10.

Could speak  
of man's  
inability to under-  
stand what is  
written.  
Cf. 1 Pet.  
1:10-12.

This is to be seen in its treatment of one subject: salvation.

What man would have been willing to present such an absolutely devastating picture, such a hopeless portrayal of man, as you find in the Word of God? One objection that is often raised to preaching the Gospel in other lands is that their needs are different. The Bible dares to place all men in the same category. Cf. Rom. 3:23; Isa. 53:6.

Who could ever have arrived at the conclusion that there is nothing that man can do about his sin? THE HISTORY OF THE RELIGIONS OF THE EARTH IS THAT MAN CAN AND SHOULD DO SOMETHING. Humanism is stronger today than it ever has been, and yet it has always been a part of life on earth--the prominent part!

What man could have come up with the idea that man's need could be met through the incarnation of God? Who would have known that there were three Persons in the Godhead? How could there possibly have been any agreement on this subject?

AND, MOST AMAZING OF ALL, WHO WOULD HAVE DEVISED A SALVATION THAT WAS AVAILABLE TO EVERYBODY, AND WOULD EXCLUDE NOBODY! Cf. Eph. 2:8, 9; John 3:16.

The truths we all know so well verify the divine nature of the Bible--that it is the Word of God!

Who would have thought up the glorious future of those who experience salvation?

WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT WE HAVE MUCH EVIDENCE HERE OF THE SUPERNATURAL CHARACTER OF THE BIBLE.

B. The unity of the Bible. It is really ONE book although it is made up of 66.

Where is the greatest evidence of its unity? In

one place: What it teaches about the Lord Jesus Christ!

Cf. Luke 24:25-27, 44.

Obviously, here we come to the subject of PROPHECY. Many feel that this is the greatest evidence for the inspiration of Scripture. Every prophecy concerning Christ's first coming was fulfilled in minute detail when He came--a phenomenon which has no parallel in all of history.

This evidently had a major influence upon the Apostle Paul. Something had been going on in his life before the Lord stopped him in his tracks on the road to Damascus because in Acts 9:20, right after he was saved, we read, "And immediately he preached Christ (the Messiah) in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."

When Matthew gathers together much of OT prophecy and relates it to the birth, life, and ministry of Jesus Christ, he gives us indisputable evidence of the inspiration of Scripture.

C. It is a complete book.

When anyone asks you if this is all of the Word of God, ask them what more they need!

Note the finality in Heb. 1:1-3; Col. 1:25; 2 Pet. 1:1-4.

Oh, there may be more information that we would like to have, but there is none that we need to have!

So much more could be said, but I must conclude with one other point.

### III. DOES IT PRODUCE RESULTS WHICH SUPPORT ITS CLAIM TO BE THE WORD OF GOD?

Cf. Heb. 4:12. Also, 2 Cor. 5:17. The greatest practical evidence that the Bible is the Word of God is the child of God himself. Let us come back to our text in closing: 1 Thess. 2:13. Read also 1 Thess. 1:5-2:1.

Concl: I have only touched on this most important of all doctrines--a doctrine which supports all other doctrines, placing under our feet a foundation that will hold us through all of the storms of life, from time to eternity.