

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

ALL SCRIPTURE

48

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on the importance that all Scriptures are inspired and valid in any type of society or era.

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City of ^{the} Living God



“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 Tim. 3:16).

It is interesting how the idea that, all of the Scriptures including Old and New Testament are inspired of God, is mostly accepted by all Christian religions regardless of denomination. However, there is a problem with that belief if we do not actually practice that belief in what we accept and what we do not accept in the Bible. Some do not accept the Old Testament and others do not accept some of the New Testament books. While there are others that accept portions of the New Testament books, but the verses that do not line up with their way of living, they think that they are obsolete. The Apostle Paul made it very clear in the above verse. All of the Scriptures are good for doctrinal teaching which provides us with a “complete” teaching. In other words, if you do not accept part of it, then you are lacking part of it. The apostle does not limit the inspiration or the validity according to era, society, or culture. He says that it will “equip us for EVERY good work” regardless of any other criterion.

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INSPIRED BY GOD, NOT BY MAN

John 17:17

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Matthew 5:17

“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”

2 Peter 1:21

“For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Obviously, the writers of the Bible were only tools to write the words that God directly inspired them to write. Even the churches of their day recognized that the words that which were penned by the writers were actually the word of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

Not only was it the Word of God, but it remains to be God’s word regardless of the time we live in. Scripture makes it clear that no era will make it obsolete or old fashioned. It is new and more up to date than tomorrow’s news. Jesus uses in the following verse two terms in the Hebrew grammar. A jot was the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet and the tittle was the smallest part of a letter.

Matthew 5:18

“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.”

In other words, ALL OF THE BIBLE is God's word which includes every book, chapter, verse, word, and letters!

DOCTRINE

Oftentimes, people misunderstand or misinterpret what the word, doctrine, means. It's a word found in the New Testament 21 times and comes from the Greek word didaskalia. It is defined as doctrine, teaching, and instruction. So basically, doctrine is any teaching found within the Bible. We cannot differentiate what is doctrine and what we consider extra or God's suggestions or preferences. God gave us the Bible so that we can use it as our guide for life.

Psalms 119:105

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

The Apostle Paul give strict instructions to his young minister in the gospel, Timothy, on the importance of maintaining pure doctrine and not wavering on any of it.

1 Timothy 4:6

"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed."

1 Timothy 4:13

"Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

Notice how the apostle tells Timothy the importance of adhering to all of the doctrine and how this will affect his salvation and those that hear the pure doctrinal word of God.

1 Timothy 4:15-16

"Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the

doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

THE WARNING AGAINST FALSE TEACHING

In Paul's letter to the Galatian church, he confronts a certain group of people within that church that tried to alter the doctrinal teachings of the word of God. Paul pronounces a curse on those that teach any other doctrine than what he taught them.

Galatians 1:6-9

"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."

Any altering of adding or subtracting to the Word of God is included in this address to the church. Even the Apostle John pronounces a curse to those that add or subtract from the Word of God.

Revelation 22:18-19

"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

What are ways in which people add or take away from the Word of God?

- Adding to the books or verses of the Bible

- Denying the authority of the books or verses of the Bible.
- Ascribing certain books of the New Testament to the Jews and not Gentiles.
- Deciding that certain verses within the New Testament are obsolete or not pertaining to the Church.

HOLINESS – VITAL TO THE NT

The Old and New Testament is full of Scriptures that address the necessity of holy living. The word, holy, comes from the Greek word, hagios. It means holy, sacred, or set apart for God. In other words, it describes our state of being as to our life. We are to be set apart dedicated to living the Christian lifestyle described in the Bible.

Romans 12:1-2

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Notice that our life is to conform to what is acceptable to God. Since we are bought with the price of Jesus dying on the cross, we are not our own. So, it is only reasonable that we live the life that is acceptable to him. We are not to change the Word to fit our lifestyle; we are to change our lifestyle to fit the Word of God.

The Apostle Paul describes our body as a temple for God to dwell in.

2 Corinthians 6:16

“And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them

and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

So the apostle states in the next verse that this is the reason why we must keep our bodies set apart and holy before God.

2 Corinthians 6:17

“Therefore Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.”

Many other Scriptures describe this call to holiness within our lives.

1 Peter 1:15-16

“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

Hebrews 12:14

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”

HOLINESS – WITHIN & WITHOUT

Holiness is not something that is only internal. To be complete it must be part of our whole being. Inside and outside.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

*“Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely**; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

2 Corinthians 6:20

“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

2 Corinthians 7:1

*“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*

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