

God Has Spoken – Part 1

By Lee Delbridge

Psalms 119:11

Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

Introduction

Henry H. Halley who wrote *Halley Bible Handbook* wrote: “The Bible is the most priceless possession of the human race.” The American statesman Patrick Henry said “The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed.” The Christian conservative author Mal Couch said “The Bible is the most remarkable book every written.” Many other people could be quoted who have a very high opinion of the Bible. Let’s look at what the Bible says about itself.

II Timothy 3:15-17

And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

The Apostle Paul is writing to the young minister Timothy. In verse 15 Paul says that Timothy had known the sacred writings from childhood (infancy). His father was not a Jew, but both his mother and his grandmother were godly people of “sincere faith” (II Timothy 1:5). These two women probably taught Timothy the part of God’s Word we know as the Old Testament. The Old Testament gives wisdom that leads to or points to faith in Jesus Christ. The law given in the Old Testament does not save a person, but it does convict us of sin and that can point us to the Savior (Romans 3:19-20, Galatians 2:16). A person is saved through faith in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the only way of salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

The “sacred writings” of verse 15 refers to the Old Testament. The “all Scripture” of verse 16 refers to the entire Bible. All the Scripture God inspired (Genesis through Revelation) is included in what Paul writes in verses 16 and 17. All Scripture is inspired by God. The Greek word translated “inspired” is a compound word that means “God breathed”. Even though God used human writers, their personalities and their vocabularies, what was written was just as if it came from the mouth of God. God so directed the writers that what they wrote was exactly what He wanted to be written. This concept can be seen in Acts 1:16 where Peter is quoted as saying, “the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David”. The ultimate source of all Scripture is God. The words of the original writings were inspired by God and are without error. All 66 books of the Bible are inspired by God and are perfect. Because it is God’s word, it is profitable or useful for four things: teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. We should use the Bible for teaching (KJV translated it doctrine). The Bible tells us what we should believe. What we believe is very important because it determines where we spend eternity (John 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; 8:24). What we believe also determines how we live. The Bible is also useful to tell us what not to do (reproof). The Bible tells us what not to believe (correction). It is important to believe the right thing and not to believe the wrong thing. The Bible is useful to train us in righteousness — it tells us how to live. The Bible can equip us for every good work. The Bible is God’s full and final revelation to man.

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II Peter 1:19-21

So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Because of what Peter had experienced on the mount of Transfiguration (II Peter 1:16-18; Matthew 17:1-8), the Word of God was made more sure to him. Peter says we should use the Word of God as one would use a light in a dark place. The Psalmist has said that God's Word is a "lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalms 119:105). A light is very important in the darkness. The Bible is very important in a world darkened by sin. No part of Scripture came from man, but it came from God. As we study the Bible, we should compare Scripture with Scripture, in order to fully understand what God is saying to us. The best commentary on the Bible ever written is the Bible itself. We should study the Bible more than we study books about the Bible (including commentaries or study Bible notes). Verse 21 gives us a Bible explanation of what inspiration (II Timothy 3:16) means. Prophecy (Scripture) was not given by an act of human will. The writers did not come up with the ideas and concepts themselves. These men, who wrote the Bible, were moved by the Holy Spirit of God. What they wrote was what God directed them to write. Verse 21 says "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." The Holy Spirit of God so controlled the Bible writers that what they wrote came from God.

Conclusion

"The Bible is the most priceless possession of the human race." It is inspired by God which means that even though God used men to write it, the end result of what they wrote is exactly what He wanted to be written. God the Holy Spirit so controlled them that they wrote God's perfect revelation. It tells us what to believe, what not to do, what not to believe and what to do. It is like a light in the dark. Use it as a light in a dark world. Use it to determine what to believe and how to live.