

THE BIBLE IS THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD--THE BIBLE AS DIVINE REVELATION

In some respects, as Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the flesh (Matt 1:23), so the Bible is the Word of God in the words of men. The apostle Paul thanked God continually for the Thessalonians who received the word of God from him but "*accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God*"

READ... 1 Thessalonians 2:13 *And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.*

Although the words of the Bible are truly human, they are not merely human. "*All Scripture is God-breathed*" (2 Tim 3:16)--breathed out by God through the mouths and pens of men. Thus it is true: What the Bible says, God says.

Jesus is the divine Word (John 1:1-5) who became flesh (John 1:14), and the words of the Bible are divine words that were spoken by men who were "carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21) in their thinking, speaking, and writing. As the one and only Son of God (John 3:16), Jesus is without parallel... as the one and only divine-human book, the Bible is unique. Just as Jesus is true man and true God and was in the world with a task to perform, so the Bible is God's infallible (unfailing) Word to us... "*So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty*" (Isaiah 55:11).

Because the words of the Bible are God's words, the Bible is God's message to us. Like God, then, the Bible is trustworthy and true. Everything the Bible teaches, affirms, commands, promises and says is trustworthy and true! As Jesus said to his Father: "*Your word is truth*".

READ... John 17:7-8 from Jesus prayer for his disciples, *Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you; and they believed that you sent me.*

Since the Bible conveys God's message to us, it is authoritative. This places three requirements on the Lord's followers.

1. Christians are to trust and obey every word of God (Matt 14:31; 21:21; Luke 8:11-13; John 3:18).
2. Christians are to be totally loyal to the Word of God. They are to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God; in other words... the Bible is God's speaking voice. (Deut 8:3; Josh 1:8; Ps 40:6-8; Matt 5:17-20).
 - Believers cannot serve two masters (Matt 6:24); *the double-minded man is unstable in all his ways* (James 1:8).
3. God's Word is to govern every area of our lives (Ps 1:1-3; 119; 2 Tim 3:16-17).
 - It is to be the standard by which we judge all that we feel and imagine, believe and think, say and hear, see and read, do and desire (Lev 18:1-5; Mark 7:13; Rom 12:2; 2 Cor 10:5).

Christianity is the true worship and service of the true God, humankind's Creator and Redeemer. It is a religion that rests on revelation and faith. Nobody would know the truth about God, or be able to relate to him in a personal way, had he not acted to make himself known.

But God has so acted, and the sixty-six books of the Bible, thirty-nine written before Christ came and twenty-seven after, are together the record, interpretation, expression, and embodiment of his self-disclosure. God wants all people everywhere to know... Who he is, What he has done, What he requires of us, and Who we are according to his Word.

The idea of written directives from God himself as a basis for godly living goes back to God's act of inscribing the 10 Commandments on stone tablets and then prompting Moses to write his laws and the history of his dealings with his people. Moses is the human writer of the first five books of the Bible. Digesting and living by God's written Word was always central to true devotion for both Hebrew leaders and ordinary folks. The New Testament church has always accepted Scripture as having come from Jesus.

The principle that the Scriptures must govern all things, both the Old and New Testaments taken together, is basic to Christianity.

READ... James 1:22-25 **Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.**

A.C.T stands for: Acknowledging, Committing to, and Trusting... that God's Word is true, without error and effective for every detail of our lives is basic to glorifying God, pleasing him and enjoying him.

What Scripture says, God says; for, in a manner comparable only to the deeper mystery of the Incarnation, the Bible is both fully human and fully divine. (John 1:1-5, 1:14) So in all its various contents—histories, prophecies, poems, songs, wisdom writings, sermons, statistics, letters, and whatever else—should be received as from God, and all that Bible writers teach should be revered as God's authoritative instruction. Christians should be grateful to God for the gift of his written Word, **and** conscientious in basing their faith and life entirely and exclusively upon it. Otherwise, they cannot honor or please him as he calls them to do.

The revealed Word of God and Jesus becomes for the children of God, a Treasure Chest¹ of holy joy—Jesus a crucified Savior who pardons all our sins, provides all our righteousness, and becomes in his own fellowship our greatest pleasure. Before folks are saved they have no delight in God, and Christ is just a vague historical figure... the Christ of Easter and Christmas. Neither God nor Christ are the center of our happiness... they were not a "treasure of delight."

¹ Matthew 13:44-46

But through the Bible we can see God's revelation of his saving grace and we can rejoice in his loving kindness and grace to sinners and we can, "*know the One true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.*"

God's Word informs us that **sin** keeps us from knowing him and enjoying him. Listen to what it says... Isaiah 59:1-2 *Listen! The Lord is not too weak to save you, and he is not becoming deaf. He can hear you when you call. But there is a problem—your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.* [NLT]

From God's Word we can see that something has to be done so God can be reached. We can't do anything about getting rid of our sin, so God did! The Bible tells us his Son, Jesus, died on the cross to take away our sin and make a path to God! "*While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.*" John 3:16a Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*" John 14:6

Something miraculous happens when we trust in the life giving death, burial, resurrection and ascension to heaven of Christ... conversion and regeneration by the Spirit of God; and then faith—that confidence that Christ has made a way for a sinner, to live in God's glorious fellowship forever as his sons and daughter. Jesus promised that the "*Spirit of truth*" (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 4:6; 5:6) would guide Christians into all truth (John 16:13) by testifying about Jesus.

If you come to God through Christ, he will give you the desire of your heart... which is, to share his holiness and behold his glory from that moment and for all eternity! It is "in believing" in the real Jesus that you become his child... filled with joy, with peace, with hope through the Holy Spirit in you. **Now that's real divine revelation!**

Easy as ABCD

God has made his message of redemption, salvation and eternal life as easy as ABCD.

Accept the fact that you have sinned and are separated from God.

Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sin, and is the path to God.

Choose Jesus as your Savior from sin and death in hell.

Decide to follow God all your life according to his written Word—the Bible!

By faith in Christ as the Son of God in the flesh you will be assured that the Bible is the written Word of God—divine revelation. Divine words that were from the divinely inspired writers of the Bible as they were "*carried along by the Holy Spirit.*"