

Lesson 03

THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

1.9. The Bible is the Word of God

- As we have already seen, the Author of the Bible is the Holy Spirit, and we depend on Him to learn the Scriptures.
- We must know how to handle the Word of the Truth well. ⇒ **II Timothy 2:15**
- The Word of God works efficiently. ⇒ **I Thessalonians 2:13**
- In practice we see men speaking through the Holy Spirit: ⇒ **Mark 12:36**
⇒ **Hebrew 3:7~8**
⇒ **Acts 4:24~25**
- Jesus said 'my Words' ⇒ **Matthew 24:35**
- Everything will be fulfilled ⇒ **Matthew 5:18**
- The character of Paul's preaching ⇒ **I Corinthians 2:1~5**
- Some of the facts in the Bible are impressive; the ancients created theories that the Bible already testified to, for example:
 - Where did the earth stand? (on turtles? the 'god' Atlas? Four elephants?) the Bible tells us ⇒ **Job 26:7**
 - The shape of the earth, see ⇒ **Isaiah 40:22**

1.10. How do you stand before the Word of God?

- How should we approach the Bible? How should we read the Bible? Does the Bible have a key to interpretation? Should I accept everything as it is written? Do I have to buy other material to interpret the Bible?
- The Bible is God's revelation to man, written by God himself, as we have already seen. It would be very strange for God to write it in words that his creatures couldn't understand. I must take the Bible and read it, like a letter I receive from someone.
- Many things you'll find in the Bible written in pictures or symbols, but it will be clear that it's a picture or a symbol. The parables were allegories.
- For example, symbols and figures that don't escape our natural experience:
 - Jesus said: I am the bread of life; the door; let anyone who is thirsty come and drink. These figures are easy to understand because they are part of our natural experience.

BASIC RULE: 'GOD USES VISIBLE (MATERIAL) THINGS TO EXPLAIN INVISIBLE (SPIRITUAL) THINGS'.

- Often, we will come across figures or symbols that are foreign to our natural experience, for example: ⇒ **Revelation 17:1** ... '*seated on many waters*'
The Bible and only the Bible has the authority to interpret such figures, let us to see:
⇒ **Revelation 17:15** and **17:18**

- The Bible interprets everything literally; the Bible is meant to be read and understood literally.
E.g. Parable of the Sower ⇒ **Luke 8: 4~15**
Paul gives the rule ⇒ **I Corinthians 2:13**
There is no other book outside the Bible that has the spiritual authority to interpret it. All the other books were written by men, without inspiration from God. If such books had the divine inspiration, then they should be included in the Bible.
- What was it like before the written Word? The Prophet's test:
 - Before the written Word, God spoke directly to men who believed in him: Adam, Noah, Enoch etc. But how did we know it was God's Word? For example, God gave Noah all the measurements for the ark; Moses recorded them after the flood.
 - The test of whether the Word was from God or not was simple: if it happened, it was from God; if it didn't, it wasn't from God.
 - Prophet test: ⇒ **Deuteronomy 18:19~22** (*direct, simple and literal*).
⇒ **I Samuel 3:19~20**; (*test with Samuel*)
- Today, we have the written Word. Everything a prophet says has to be within the principles of the Bible ⇒ **I John 4:1**
So, knowing the Bible, we won't be fooled. God's principles are immutable, just as physical laws are.
- How do we seek God's principles and understanding in the Bible?
 - *lean not on your own understanding* ⇒ **Proverbs 3:5~6**
 - *search for her as for hidden treasures* ⇒ **Proverbs 2:1~6**
 - *to find out whether these things were so* ⇒ **Acts 17:11**

1.11. The question of Faith

- Faith is believing in something you can't see. If nothing is given to you, you can't exercise faith. To exercise faith, we have to have something.
- Faith is the certainty that something is and has not been seen. It is the certainty of things or facts that are hoped for. ⇒ **Hebrew 11:1**
- Without faith we cannot approach God. If we don't believe that God exists, how can we approach Him? ⇒ **Hebrew 11:6**
- If someone doesn't tell us about Jesus, how can we believe? ⇒ **Roman 10: 8~17**
Faith comes from hearing. If I hear something, I can exercise faith; I can't exercise faith in nothing.
- In our walk with God, we will have struggles, but we must persevere and look to Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. ⇒ **Hebrews 12:1~2**
Paul had many struggles, but he set an example and kept the faith.
⇒ **II Timothy 4:6~8**
- Jesus interceded for us ⇒ **John 17:20**
We are blessed because we believed and did not see. ⇒ **John 20:29**
- Examples of faith in the Bible; ⇒ **Hebrew 11**