



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.... 1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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I Know For Sure That the Bible Is God's Word (Part 2)

Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

It is also the case that there is organic unity of the Bible. "Organic unity" is a description that implies three things: (1) All parts of the Bible are necessary to complete the whole (2) All the parts of the Bible are necessary complements of the others. (3) All the parts of the Bible are pervaded by one life principle. [This last statement is comparable to saying, for example, that every part of the human body, no matter its size or location, is heir to the life-principle of the whole body. See 1 Corinthians 12:14-24 and the apostle Paul's application of this life-principle to the spiritual body, the church.]

Applying the first principle above to the Bible, that all of its parts are necessary for *completeness*, uncovers a wonderful fact. No book of the Bible could, independently, start or stop without the other, except for Genesis and Revelation. For, Exodus depends on Genesis and Matthew on the Old Testament, and Acts on the gospel accounts, etcetera. What understanding, for example, would one have of Matthew's writings if the Old Testament had not been recorded?

The second principle, that all the parts of the Bible are *necessary* complements, implies that salvation truth is complete and that each book, letter, historical account, psalm, biographical message, prophecy, or statute serves a unique purpose in completing the whole (Ecc. 12:13-14; 2 Pet. 1:3). The Old Testament Decalogue, for example, was *complemented* and thus fulfilled by the Sermon on the Mount (Exo. 20; Deu. 5; Mat. 5-7). The Old Testament prophecies were *complemented* by the New Testament update (cf. Acts 8:30-31). And, it is needful to note that the Mosaic code would be incomplete without the ethics of Christ and the New Testament epistles, for the latter teachings insist on the end of the ancient code and the ushering in of a new covenant (Col. 2:10-14; Gal. 6:2).

It is also the case, in the third place that the "life-principle" is in God's Word throughout the pages of Holy Writ (2 Tim. 3:16-17). God's Word is life and direction (John 6:63; Heb. 4:12). No person could account for such "organic unity" except by considering that only one source produced this book called the Bible. The Bible is "God-breathed" and that *rama* [Greek, "breathed word," K.M.] is the only message that produces saving faith (Rom. 10:17) and the only message that the Holy Spirit uses to regenerate man (Eph. 6:17). (The Greek term translated *word* in the latter two passages is *rama*).

One last subject needs to be mentioned when examining the unified nature of the Bible and that is its unity of "soberness." The Bible's calm, rational, dignified message that is neither coldly intellectual nor hotly fanatical implies divine guidance. Truth is presented whether the hearers (perhaps God's people at times or strangers at other times) obey or not, and one gains confidence in the trustworthiness of the Bible because of the straightforward "soberness." Human writings tend to over emphasize some things and under emphasize others, thus proving defective. Just a cursory review of the Quran with its over emphasis on violence or the Book of Mormon with its inaccurate history or the Jewish Talmud and its man-made laws will exhibit to the honest reader the multitude of problems of human productions. But when one considers the Bible's unified teaching, one cannot help but be impressed with the perfectly balanced approach to all subjects.

(continued on page 2)

I Know For Sure That the Bible is God's Word (continued from page 1)

THE BIBLE IS AN URGENTLY NEEDED BOOK

The Bible is the only book on this earth that gives the answers to man's "unsolvable problems" of origins and destinies. Philosophers, ancient and modern, have offered answers to why man is here and where is he going, which solutions have never satisfied man's need to know. Evolution is the popular notion today, but the theory proposes no solid proof for the origin of man despite its claims and it offers only the annihilation of man as his destiny. Evolution cannot account for a mind that reasons for "something must come from something." Nor can evolution explain man's inner longings to worship, nor is there any metaphysical system that can solve the vacuum in evolution's theory of how man became such a complex being, male and female, at the same moment in the "evolutionary" process.

True science, as noted earlier, insists that something cannot come from nothing. Therefore, rationality must arise from a rational source and spirituality must arise from a spiritual source; that is, the effect must be preceded by an adequate cause. If there is no God, and the Bible is not His Word, (but it is and He does exist), there is no adequate source for the spirituality of man! The universe, man, and the Bible have a divine source Who is good, just, and caring.

Note further that no one can answer the question of man's suffering without some guidance from the Bible that teaches that sin, one's own or another's sin, is the root cause of most traumas. Adam's sin opened the door to death and difficulty (Rom. 5:12), but traditional man wants to blame God, by denying He even exists or saying that the Bible is not His book. How the irrational atheist can argue against someone nonexistent is as illogical in approach as those ancients who believed that Atlas held up the world while standing on the back of a sea-going turtle. The mythology of human invention has not ended in the year 2016, it has simply taken a different form called denial or atheism.

The Bible message is urgently needed because "the way of man is not in himself" (Jer. 10:23). Modern man has struggled to label sin as an "alternate life-style," but rebellion against God is still sin (1 John 3:7). God is still absolutely righteous, holy, and just and the Bible still presents man, on his own, as in sin and hopeless. But, the theme of the Bible is positive for God wants reconciliation and peace with man (2 Cor. 5:18-20; Eph. 2:15). Through reconciliation and atonement man's fellowship and communion with God are assured and man's innermost desires for true satisfaction in life are achieved (Eph. 2:19-22). The Bible then teaches that man is ready to live a life of good works that are also revealed by divine inspiration Eph. 2:10 and chapters 3-6).

In this world of sin, suffering, death, and degeneracy, man feels alone and weak. Only the Word of God recognizes this problem and states its solution (Eph. 2:12; John 3:1-17). The most distinctive characteristic of the Bible is its emphasis on the corrections available from God for this need of man not to feel alone. New, real life is the message (John 10:10). No other written message in all of history contains such a powerful antidote to the hopelessness felt by multitudes in this world as is the "cure" revealed in the gospel of Christ.

It is a fact known to all preachers and Christians that large numbers of non-believers call for a preacher and for the Bible when there is a death in the family. Why is that? Why do grief, misfortune, ill health, and death cause so many to, at least for a moment, seek the answers the Bible provides? What is it about the Book that draws one to its pages for comfort during trial? The Bible, alone, solves the problems of troubled hearts (John 14:1-6). The Bible, alone, provides the answers of assurance needed in times of affliction (Rom. 8:28; 15:4). The Bible, alone, contains the record of the cancellation of the fear of death (Heb. 2:12-14) and is the only book whose teaching completes the psychology of man (Ecc. 12:13). Priscilla J. Owens and E.S. Lorenza together composed the following hymn:

Give me the Bible, star of gladness gleaming;
to cheer the wanderer, lone and tempest tossed.
No storm can hide that radiance peaceful beaming,
since Jesus came to seek and save the lost.
Give me the Bible, when my heart is broken;
when sin and grief have filled my soul with fear:
give me the precious words by Jesus spoken;
hold up faith's lamp to show my Saviour near.
Give me the Bible, all my steps enlighten;
teach me the danger of these realms below;
that lamp of safety o'er the gloom shall brighten,
that light alone the path of peace can show.
Give me the Bible, lamp of life immortal,
Hold up that splendor by the open grave;
show me the light from heaven's shining portal;
show me the glory gilding Jordan's wave.

The above poem, set to music, has often filled the hearts of every Christian with joy. The chorus is: "Give me the Bible, Holy message shining; Thy light shall guide me in the narrow way; Precept and promise, law and love combining, til night shall vanish in eternal day."

CONCLUSION

I know for sure that the Bible came from the mind of God through the vocabularies of especially chosen men (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). The Bible is unique above

(continued on page 4)

I Know For Sure That the Bible is God's Word (continued from page 1)

all other books and the unity of its structure and message, achieved over a period of 1200 years and from different writers in different geographical locations would have been impossible without guidance from a divine source. Every book complements the others and every message is connected to the themes of God and man and reconciliation.

No other book is as urgently needed as the Bible and no other message has changed history and men's lives as has God's Word. Try to imagine that just good men wrote the Bible without God's guidance and then read the text and you will discover that if they were *just* good men they lied, for they said that God spoke through them (cf. 2 Sam. 23:2). And if they were *just* uninspired bad men, why would they write a book condemning themselves? And the Bible is too rational for its having been written by insane men. There are no other categories, by definition, of the types of men who could have penned Holy Writ, and so one is left, logically, with the conclusion that God guided the writers. Give me the Bible, for there is no other word from God.

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