

Lesson #3—The Perspective of Revelation.

Introduction

- A. God has not left us in our self-chosen ignorance. He has come to us and has made Himself known to us in Jesus Christ. John 1:14, 18.
- B. Biblical Christianity rests upon three foundation stones: the Person of Jesus Christ, His work for us in redemption, and the Holy Scripture. I Cor. 15:1-4.
- C. It is important to recognize that revelation and authority stand or fall together. Our only source of final authority is found in the revelation of God.
- D. Reflect on this amazing truth: God has revealed Himself to us and has caused this revelation to be written in a book!

I. The Biblical Concept of Revelation Stated.

A. The definition of inspiration.

Inspiration is that extraordinary, supernatural influence (or, passively, the result of it,) exerted by the Holy Spirit on the writers of our Sacred Books, by which their words were rendered also the words of God, and, therefore, perfectly infallible. (B.B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*, p 420)

B. Important words related to inspiration.

- 1. Verbal—the inspiration extended to the choice of words.
- 2. Plenary—the inspiration extended equally to all of the Bible.
- 3. Inerrant—exempt from error.
- 4. Infallible—absolutely trustworthy.
- 5. Revelation—the communication of truth not known before.
- 6. Illumination—the understanding of truth that has been made known.

C. The classic passages on inspiration.

II Timothy 3:16 and II Peter 1:21.

D. The example of the Lord Jesus Christ in His use of the Old Testament.

- 1. He accepted the Old Testament as the Word of God.
 - a. He identified the Old Testament Jewish Bible with Scripture, Luke 24:44, 45.
 - b. He exhorted His disciples to believe the Old Testament, Luke 24:25-27.
 - c. He called the Old Testament, "The Word of God," "Scripture," and "The Commandment of God," Luke 24:44, 45; Mark 7:6-13.
- 2. He utilized the Old Testament as His final authority.
 - a. In His Temptation He quoted the Scripture as His authority and the meaning of the statement was dependent on a single word. Note the implications of this for "verbal inspiration" as defined above.
 - 1). Matthew 4:5—"Man shall not live by bread **alone**...."
 - 2). Matthew 4:7—"Thou shalt not **tempt**...."
 - 3). Matthew 4:10—"Thou shalt worship....and Him **only**...."

b. Additional references whereby Jesus Christ referred to the Old Testament.

- 1). He said the Scripture cannot be broken, John 10:35.
- 2). He quoted the Old Testament in such a way that the argument was dependent on the tense of the verb, Mark 12:26.
- 3). He based the authority on what was written, Matthew 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42.
- 4). He affirmed the creation and the first couple (Matt. 19:4), of Cain and Abel (Luke 11:51), of Noah (Matt. 24:37-39), of Moses and his inspiration (Matt. 15:3, 4; John 5:46, 47), of the miracle of Jonah (Matt. 12:39-41).

II. The Biblical Concept of Revelation Explained.

A. Special revelation is inscripturated.

1. Since the days of Moses the special revelation of God has been a written revelation.
2. "Revelation and inspiration stand in the closest possible relation to each other. As far as special revelation is concerned, it may be said that the one is inconceivable without the other." (Louis Berkhof, **Introductory Volume to Systematic Theology**, p. 144)
3. "In the sense that Scripture sets before us both God's acts and words, saving events together with their meaning, special revelation becomes equivalent with the Bible...the inscripturation of special revelation is the objective culmination, therefore, of God's redemptive disclosure in special historical events and in propositions communicated to chosen prophets and apostles." (John Walvoord, (ed.) **Inspiration and Interpretation**, p. 256)

B. Special revelation is personal.

1. As a self-disclosure God has made Himself known to us, Hebrews 1:1-3.
2. To transgress a Biblical commandment does not mean we have merely violated a law of nature—but the commandment and Person of God, Luke 6:46.
3. The format of the Book of Hebrews is built around this characteristic. Chapter I sets forth the fact of divine revelation. Because of the nature of revelation as personal we are reminded that we may not:
 - a. Neglect the truth, Hebrews 2:1-4.
 - b. Come short of the truth, Hebrews 3:7-4:13.
 - c. Stand still before the truth, Hebrews 6.
 - d. Draw back from the truth, Hebrews 10:26-39.
 - e. Refuse Him that speaketh the truth, Hebrews 12:12-29.

C. Special revelation is historical.

1. Christianity is not based on myths, legends, sagas, or even religious ideas.
2. God has revealed Himself in historical transactions. These deeds of God in history, the Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension and the Day of Pentecost all form the basis of Christianity.
3. "...Christian experience depends absolutely upon an event." (J. Gresham Machen, **Christianity and Liberalism**, p. 71)

D. Special revelation is a disclosure.

1. This revelation is a self-disclosure of God to us—it is not a human discovery.

2. The Bible is not an account of man's religious quest for God. It is the record of God's miraculous intervention into our space and time.
3. God has not only disclosed Himself in miraculous deeds but also by divine interpretation of these deeds. "Christ died..." is the historical deed. "For our sins," is the divine interpretation. (I Cor. 15:3)

III. The Biblical Concept of Divine Revelation Applied.

A. We must accept the message of divine revelation as our final authority.

1. Our thoughts, emotions, and experiences are not authoritative. Nor are our religious convictions authoritative, unless they square with the Bible. We are warned not to rely upon ourselves as a source of truth. Jeremiah 10:23; I John 2:16.
2. We must daily choose to recognize that only the Scripture is our basis for faith (what to believe and trust) and action (what to do).

B. We must accept the message of divine revelation as final authority concerning ourselves.

1. Because of our creation and redemption we are important to God—we are God's inheritance. Deuteronomy 4:20; 7:6, 7; 14:2; 26:18, 19; 28:9; 29:13; 32:9; Psalm 33:12; Isaiah 43:1, 7, 21; John 3:16; Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:16.
2. Because of the Fall of Man and our sin we are totally dependant on God for salvation and for daily spiritual progress. Romans 6:23; Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:1-5.
3. Because of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ we are accepted by God and have the ability to honor and glorify Him. Ephesians 1:1-7; II Cor. 7:1; II Cor. 10:3, 4; Gal. 5:22, 23; Eph. 4:21-32.
4. Because of the provision of God for our daily Christian life we are responsible to respond to God in practical and aggressive cooperation.

- a. We must learn to respond to God in the decisions of faith, love and hope and then interpret life and ourselves within this context.

Matthew 22:37-40—

Hebrews 11:6—

I Corinthians 3:3—

- b. We must learn to utilize the provisions of grace in regard to the Bible, prayer, the church, Christian service and Christian fellowship.

I Peter 2:2—

Matthew 6:6—

I Corinthians 11:22—

Matthew 28:18-20—

I John 1:3—

- c. We must accept the goals set for us by God and the methods for achieving these goals.

Colossians 1:18—

I Corinthians 10:31—

Luke 12:31—

- d. We must honestly choose to live out our identification with Jesus Christ in His Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension and the provision of the Day of Pentecost. On that basis we must learn to "take charge" of our thinking, emotions, body and our daily responsibility.

Romans 6:1-13—

Galatians 2:20—

Ephesians 1:17-23—

Ephesians 5:18-21—

II Corinthians 10:4, 5—

Colossians 3:8-17—

Romans 12:1, 2—

Conclusion: Suggestions for memorization and application.

A. Memorize Galatians 2:20 and II Corinthians 10:4, 5.

B. Apply this lesson by daily making the following affirmations:

"In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take charge of my thinking (or emotions, or body, or situation). I refuse to accept that thought of _____. In dependence on the True and Living God I bring all my thinking into subjection to Jesus Christ. I choose to think upon and to live according to the truth."

1. MADE FOR GOD - FELLOWSHIP
2. DESTROYED BY SIN -
3. SPOKEN TO BY REVELATION -

THE BIBLE IS:

A KEY A FIRE
A SWORD A HAMMER

<u>PERSON</u>	<u>FUNCTIONS</u>	<u>ENEMIES</u>
YOU	MIND EMOTION WILL BODY	FLESH WORLD SATAN