

Session # 4

The Blueprint for Spirituality -- Divine Revelation

Introduction

- A. The truth is almost too great for us: God has revealed Himself!
- B. In His love for us God has made Himself known in both general revelation and special revelation.
 - 1. General revelation would include all aspects of creation, such as angels, the universe, the human race, etc. The evidence of His work is seen in the design in nature (a rational world), morality, religion, and history.
 - 2. Special revelation has to do with the disclosures God has made of Himself all culminating in Jesus Christ and the completion of the Word of God.
- C. God has not left us in our self-chosen ignorance. He has come and revealed Himself to us. In this session our emphasis will be on special revelation.

I. Special Revelation Described.

- A. Revelation is described as inspired.
 - 1. Inspiration may be stated as the result of the work of the Holy Spirit on the writers of Scripture so their words are rendered the words of God, and, therefore, infallible. (See B.B. Warfield The Inspiration and authority of the Bible, P. 420) II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21
 - 2. Inspiration extended to the choice of words and equally to all of the Bible.
- B. Revelation is described as authoritative.
 - 1. Illustrated by our Savior's use of the Old Testament.
 - a. He accepted the OT as the Word of God. Luke 24:44,45
 - b. He utilized the OT as His final authority. Matt. 4:5-10; 12:3,5; John 10:35
 - 2. Illustrated by our Savior's teaching regarding the Old Testament.
 - a. He said the Scripture could not be broken and based the authority on what was written. John 10:35; Matt. 12:34.
 - b. He affirmed the existence of the first couple, of Cain and Abel, of Noah, of Moses and his inspiration, and of the miracle of Jonah. Matt. 19:4; Luke 11:51; Matt. 24:37-39; Matt. 15:3,4; John 5:46,47; Matt. 12:39-41

II. Special Revelation Explained

- A. The revelation of God is inscripturated. II Tim. 3:16,17; I Peter 1:16
- B. The revelation of God is personal. Heb. 2:1-4; 12:12-29

C. The revelation of God is historical. I Cor. 15:1-8

D. The revelation of God is a disclosure. II Peter 1:20,21

III. Special Revelation Applied

A. There is an inseparable relationship between Jesus Christ and the Scripture.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him. The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. John 12:48 (See also Matt. 24:35; John 14:10)

Comment: 1. The Lord Jesus here places the Word on the same level as Himself.

2. What we know of Jesus Christ comes only through the Scripture.

3. How we treat the Bible -- indicates how we treat Jesus Christ.

B. There is an inseparable relationship between the power of God and Scripture.

And behold, there was a man which had his hand withered ... Then said he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth, and it was restored whole, like as the other. Matt. 12:10-13 (See also John 1:14; 6:63; John 17:17; Rom. 1:16; I Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:22)

Comment: 1. God has designed His Word to be a channel of grace and power.

2. The grace and power of God accompanies the Word of God.

3. How we respond to the Bible indicates our faith or unbelief and determines the benefit or loss incurred.

C. There is an inseparable relationship between our responsibility and Scripture.

The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. Jn 12:48

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. Heb. 2:1 (See also Heb. 4:1-3; 3:7-4:13; 6:4-9; 10:26-31; 12:25; I Peter 1:13-16; I John 5:3)

Comment: 1. God treats us as persons in that He holds us responsible.

2. We do not have to guess as to how to obey God -- He has spoken.

3. How we obey the Word indicates the measure of our love for Him.

D. There is an inseparable relationship between faith and the Scripture.

And being not weak in faith, he (Abraham) considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully persuaded that, what he (God) had promised, he (God) was able also to perform. Rom. 19-21

Comment: 1. Faith must be rooted in the Word of God for its content and strength.

2. The evidence of our faith is how we practice the Scripture.

3. How we respond to the Bible indicates our respect for God.

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