

THE BIBLE IS OUR STANDARD

(John 12:48)

Intro.

1. We like guidance.
2. People claim to want to be different but we all try to find a group into which we can fit.
3. We need structure.
4. People who claim to be anarchists, those that want no authority or structure, actually want us to have their authority and structure.
5. The truth is, we need a standard of authority.
6. Last week, we noticed several standards of authority to which people appeal.
 - a. In truth, none of those are adequate standards.
 - b. We noticed several accounts of what happened to God's people when they went by a standard other than the God-given one in their lives and we saw that sin took place every time.
7. God's word is our standard of authority.
8. It is the only proper standard of authority.
9. The reason for this is found in the verse that was read earlier: God's word is that by which we will be judged on that great judgment day.
10. Why should we hold it up as being anything better than any other standard we could follow?
11. That is a question many have and one for which we need to have an answer.
12. When we study with someone and tell them they need to follow just the Bible because it is all the only standard and they ask why, what are we going to say?
13. It is that question we want to answer in this sermon.

I. Because it is from God.

- A. All of the standards we noticed last week are from man.
 1. Our feelings.
 2. Man-made traditions.
 3. The wisdom of men.
 4. The crowd.
 5. Things the preacher says.
- B. None of those are God-given, unless the preacher is preaching truth.
- C. The Bible is a God-given book and the claim of that is made throughout.
- D. We need to understand that there are two types of revelation from God:
 1. General revelation is how God has revealed Himself to man through nature.
 2. Special revelation is how God has spoken to man.
 3. Psalm 19:1-12 contains a description of both.
 - a. 1-6 is general revelation.
 - b. 7-12 is specific revelation.
- E. God has revealed Himself to all mankind through His creation.

- F. In each age of man, God has revealed His will in a special way: by speaking to man by some means.
- G. In the patriarchal days, God spoke to the heads of households (Hebrews 1:1).
 - 1. This is seen in the life of Noah (Genesis 6:13).
 - 2. In the life of Abram (Genesis 12:1).
 - 3. In the life of Job (Job 38:1) and many others could be noted.
- H. In the Mosaic age, God spoke directly to Moses and others as well.
 - 1. He gave the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 20:1).
 - 2. He spoke to Moses on numerous other occasions.
 - 3. God spoke to His prophets.
 - 4. "Thus saith the Lord" is found 413 times in the Old Testament.
 - 5. Notice the statement of David (2 Samuel 23:1-2).
 - 6. Other statements like this are found.
- I. In the Christian age, God speaks to us through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-4).
 - 1. We have the words of the apostles and other men inspired to write them down.
 - 2. Notice what Jesus said about those words (John 17:8).
 - 3. When we read their words, we are reading the words of Jesus.
 - 4. Not only that, in that same passage, we read from Who it is that Jesus got His words.
- J. There is no other book that can make the claim of the Bible as being from God and have it successfully defended.
 - 1. There are other books that have made the claim of course.
 - 2. But all have been shown to be making a fraudulent claim.

II. Because it is inspired by God.

- A. Since the Bible makes the claim that it is from God all throughout, the question then arises, how did God give it to man.
- B. We made mention of revelation, both general and specific.
 - 1. Of the specific nature, revelation is a result of inspiration.
 - 2. Not everything that God has done is recorded (John 21:25).
- C. What God did do that has been revealed to man has been done so by inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - 1. The word "inspiration" literally means "God-breathed."
 - 2. God breathed these words out into the minds of the men that were blessed with inspiration.
- D. Inspiration was done by means of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; 2 Peter 1:21).
 - 1. The Lord had promised that this would be the case (Matthew 10:19).
 - 2. The Holy Spirit would give them the very words that they were to say and write.
 - 3. This is exactly what occurred.

- E. It had occurred before.
 - 1. David said it happened to him (2 Samuel 23:2).
 - 2. As mentioned, all of the prophets have a statement similar to “thus saith the Lord” numerous times in their writings.
- F. The New Testament writers claim inspiration.
 - 1. 2 Peter 3:1-2.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.
 - 3. Many other passages could be discussed but these show the gist of what is claimed in the New Testament.
- G. The New Testament, our standard of authority, shows itself to be inspired.
 - 1. It does so by the claims the writers made as we’ve noticed.
 - 2. It does so by the great unity that is found in it.
 - a. There is not a shred of contradiction anywhere in it.
 - b. When one reads the Bible, both Old and New Covenants, one sees great unity of thought and action throughout.
 - 3. There is the historical accuracy of the Bible.
 - 4. There is the geographical accuracy of the Bible.
 - 5. There is the relevancy to man’s greatest need.
 - 6. There are the answers to man’s greatest questions.
 - 7. There is the ethical accuracy of the Bible.
- H. All of these go to show the fact that God inspired man to write the Bible.

III. **Because all of the Bible is inspired by God.**

- A. Remember what Paul wrote Timothy: “All scripture is given by...” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- B. It isn’t just the words in red that man was inspired to write.
 - 1. Every recorded word was given to the writer in language he would normally use.
 - 2. This accounts for the differences in styles.
 - 3. It was not mere mechanical dictation where the Holy Spirit took over the mind and the pen of the human author.
 - 4. The Holy Spirit gave them the message that God wanted written down or spoken using words that the writer or speaker would normally use.
 - 5. Luke was a physician and you can see an a greater knowledge of medical terminology in his writings than other writers.
 - 6. John became a loving, kinder person after being with Jesus and he became known as the apostle of love.
 - 7. On and on we could go.
- C. Every person recorded in the Bible was not inspired to say what he or she said.
 - 1. God didn’t inspire Satan and his words are recorded.
 - 2. There are words said by men and women who were encouraging others to sin and we know God did not inspire them to say those

- things.
3. However, the Holy Spirit did inspire the one who wrote them down to record them.
- D. There is not a passage to which we can turn and say that is not inspired.
1. Some have tried.
 2. They point to a passage like 1 Corinthians 7:12.
 3. It is taught that this was Paul's opinion.
 4. All Paul was saying is that the Lord hadn't taught on that specific topic so he was addressing it.
 5. If it was an opinion, which it wasn't, it was an inspired one.
 6. In truth, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to teach on that topic to the Corinthians and address it in a way the Lord had not while He was on earth.

The outline is original but some material was found in Keith Mosher's book "The Book God Breathed, Vol. 1."