

REASONS FOR RELEVANCE

(Hebrews 4:12-13)

- I. **The Producer of it is a reason to believe in its continued relevance.**
 - a. We noticed 2 Peter 1:19-21 last week.
 - i. Holy men of God spoke as they were borne along by God the Spirit.
 - ii. God is the Originator of scripture.
 - b. We also mentioned 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 - i. All Scripture was breathed out by God, or given by the inspiration of God.
 - ii. God is the giver of all scripture.
 - c. The God we serve is eternal in nature.
 - i. God is timeless.
 - ii. This means God is relevant in all ages.
 - iii. He is the Sustainer of life (Hebrews 1:3).
 - iv. Man has, does, and always will need God.
 - d. If God is timeless and there is always a need for God in the life of man, is it unthinkable that an eternal God could produce a document for man that keeps up with the times?
 - e. God is always needed; thus His revelation is always needed.
 - f. Really, if you are being intellectually honest, the only ones who can deny the relevance of scripture consistently are those who deny God exists.
 - g. If we say we believe in God but don't believe that the God in which we believe could produce a work for all times, then we deny the all-powerful nature of the God in whom we profess belief.
 - i. We are saying that God is limited in ability if we hold this idea.
 - ii. The age of the book does not determine its relevance, or lack thereof.
 - h. God is quite capable of producing a document that will always be relevant to man.
- II. **The purpose of its giving is a reason to believe in its continued relevance.**
 - a. This book is from God and it reveals God to man.
 - i. There is the general revelation of God for man in the universe itself.
 1. There is no way to view an ordered event such as the eclipse and not realize there is a Great Orderer behind the ordered event, unless you are totally spiritually blind.
 2. Looking out at nature reveals there is something greater than man.
 - ii. However, we need specific revelation to come to know God.
 1. Hebrews 1:1-2.
 2. This is where we come to know the loving God who has done so much for us.
 - b. This book also reveals the Christ to us.

- i. There is no doubt that a man named Jesus lived in Palestine at the beginning of the period of time defined as *Addo Domini*, or the year of our Lord.
 - ii. Much historical proof can be found for this man having lived.
 - iii. But we don't come to know Him as the Son of God, God in the flesh, living and dwelling among men, unless we read it in scripture.
 - iv. There is no way to truly know who Jesus was and is without the Bible.
 - 1. It is through a study of both New and Old Testaments that we come to know Jesus.
 - 2. We know of His coming, life, and death in the New Testament.
 - 3. All of these things are confirmed by the prophecies from the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled.
 - 4. Both testaments work together to give us the full picture of the Savior of man.
- c. This book reveals to us the cure for our great spiritual disease.
 - i. The thing that people completely miss when denying the relevance of scripture is that men from all ages share the same spiritual disease of sin.
 - ii. The Bible reveals to us that there is only one cure for sin, for which men before Christ looked, and those of us after Christ so desperately need as well.
 - iii. The wages of sin has always been and will always be, death.
 - iv. The cure for that spiritual disease has always been and will always be, Christ.
 - 1. Every sacrifice offered in both the Patriarchal and Mosaic dispensations of time looked forward to the time when the Christ would come.
 - 2. Every man now needs the blood of Christ that He shed when He came to earth.
- d. The Bible has been given for the greatest purpose: the salvation of man's souls through the offering of Jesus.
 - i. We see the great love of God when we see how this plan for our salvation unfolded (John 3:16).
 - ii. This moves us to get to know both the Father and the Son, which leads to eternal life (John 17:3).
- e. Once we know the purpose of the Bible, we find out our purpose for living as well.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 6:20; Romans 15:5-6.
 - ii. Our purpose in life is to glorify God.
 - iii. The price has been paid for all by the blood of Jesus.
 - iv. We should all submit to Him for the sacrifice that He made and bring God glory and honor for having sent His Son.

- f. This is our purpose in life and the Bible reveals that to us.
 - g. There will never be a time when we are too advanced as a society or civilization when this won't be our purpose.
 - h. This is why the Bible is still relevant.
- III. The pattern for life it gives is a reason to believe in its continued relevance.**
- a. In every area of our lives, there is biblical wisdom to guide us.
 - b. Do you want a better marriage: follow the Bible.
 - i. Ephesians 5:23-30.
 - ii. 1 Peter 3:7.
 - c. Do you want a better relationship with your children: follow the Bible.
 - i. Ephesians 6:1-4.
 - ii. Colossians 3:20-21.
 - d. Do you want to feel better about yourself: follow the Bible.
 - i. Genesis 1:27.
 - ii. Psalm 139:14.
 - iii. 1 John 4:10.
 - e. Do you want to be a better friend: follow the Bible.
 - i. Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, 27:9-10, 17.
 - ii. Romans 12:15.
 - iii. Galatians 6:2, 10.
 - f. Do you want be happy in life: follow the Bible.
 - i. Proverbs 23:5.
 - ii. Luke 12:15.
 - iii. Matthew 6:33.
 - g. Do you want to be a better employee: follow the Bible (Ephesians 6:5-9).
 - h. Do you want there to be peace around you: follow the Bible.
 - i. Love your enemy.
 - ii. Do good to them that hate you.
 - iii. Render not evil for evil.
 - iv. Do good unto all men.
 - i. There is not a good, proper relationship in life that the wisdom of the Bible does not address.
 - j. It will always be right to be humble, submissive to others, seeking the good of others, loving others.
 - k. There is no more nobler life than that of the Christian and the life espoused in scripture.

Sermon outline not original but source unknown