

LESSON 4: CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THE BIBLE

PART 3

Discussion of last week's meeting, readings and events.

(I) WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ITSELF

- A. "All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (II Tim. 3:16)
- B. "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord stands forever." (I Pet. 1:24)
- C. "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation, for prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (II Pet. 1: 20-21)
- D. Read Psalm 19. Some things we can learn about God by looking at nature. However, other things (salvation, the fall, etc.) we can learn only as God "reveals" them through His Word.

(II) THE BIBLE ANSWERS LIFE'S BASIC QUESTIONS

- A. Where did I come from? (Origins)
- B. Who am I? (Identity)
- C. Why am I here? (Purpose)
- D. What happens when I die? (Destiny)

(III) WHY WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE

- A. Witness of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. Read John 14:26.
 - 2. Internal Witness
- B. Witness/Testimony of Jesus
 - 1. "Think not that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets, I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." (Matt. 5:17)

- C. Witness of the fulfilled prophecy.
- D. Witness of the Apostles
 1. Would you die for a lie? Here is a listing of how the original Apostles died still claiming that they had witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy.
 - a. Peter - Crucified upside down
 - b. Andrew - Crucified
 - c. Matthew - The Sword
 - d. John - Natural, but put in burning oil for his faith and banished to the island of Patmos.
 - e. James, son of Alphaeus - Crucified
 - f. Philip - Crucified
 - g. Simon - Crucified
 - h. Thaddaeus - Killed by arrows
 - i. James, brother of Jesus - Stoned to death
 - j. Thomas - Spear thrust
 - k. Bartholomew - Crucified
 - l. James, son of Zebedee - The sword
 2. The Apostles were witnesses of the resurrection:
 - a. Luke 24:48; John 15:27; Acts 1:8; Acts 10:41; Acts 13:31; I Cor. 13:15; Acts 3:15; Acts 4:33, I John 1:2
- E. The witness and history of archaeology.

(IV) SOME FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

- A. Written over a period of 1600 years.
- B. Over 40 authors (written by kings, prisoners, shepherds, doctors, Rabbi, tax collector, military, generals, fisherman, politician.)
- C. Written in different places.
- D. Written in three languages: Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic.
- E. The Bible deals with every major issue in life and speaks of many controversial issues; yet always without contradiction!
- F. The Bible contains history, law, medical information, poetry, songs, biographies, correspondence.

- G. No book has been published more than the Bible. The Bible is translated into well over 3,000 languages.
- H. No book has ever survived through more persecution and criticism than the Bible.
- I. The Bible has been the inspiration for more music, art, stories, plays, than any book in history.
- J. The Bible is the accurate historical document of its time.
- K. The Bible is the accurate archeological book of its time.
- L. The Bible is a book of prophecy. Three hundred concerning Christ's first coming, and 300 concerning His second coming, and hundreds concerning history.
 - 1. The Bible says that it may be discarded if the prophecies it contains fail: Deut. 18:20-22; 13:1-4; Matt. 7:15-20.
- M. The Bible has changed the lives of millions even though criticized by hundreds.

(V) BASIC REVIEW OF THE BIBLE

(A) What is the Bible?

(1) The Bible is God's Word revealed to us.

(a) Heb.1:1-2

(2) The Bible has many writers but only one author.

(b) II Tim. 3:16

(B) Why has God given us His Word?

(1) II Tim. 3:17

(C) The Bible is broken into two major sections.

(1) Old Testament

(a) 39 Books

(2) New Testament

(b) 27 Books

(3) 66 Total Books

(D) The Bible has one single unifying theme.

(1) Jesus Christ

(E) The Old Testament is an account of a nation. (Israel)

(F) The New Testament is an account of a Man. (Jesus Christ)

(G) The Nation was founded and nurtured of God to bring the Man into the world.

