

Do We Pay Attention To God's Word When We Read?

If you have attended many Bible Classes or heard many Gospel Lessons, you have heard this statement; "All scripture {is} given by inspiration of God, and {is} profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3;16-17)

That tells everyone who reads God's Word that He is the author of it. But have you ever had this thought? Can we know for certainty who did not write The Bible?

If we open our Bibles to Genesis 1:1 we read "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." This simple but true statement rules out the Atheist and Infidels. How many pages would it take for man to reach such a conclusion? I have always been impressed with the Wisdom and Brevity of God. There has been over the years many who tried to disprove God's Word, Two of the most well known are; Voltaire and Robert Ingersoll. The former stated "In less than a hundred years the Bible will be discarded and Christianity swept from the earth." Time has proven him wrong! The latter travelled far and near trying to convince individuals of "The Mistakes of Moses". Moses made no mistakes in writing what God had revealed to him. A close look at Robert Ingersoll's life reveals a great many mistakes. Before leavening this group let us look at; Palms 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." and Romans 1:20 "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, {even} his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

Christians Can Fall

In 1 Timothy we read the following:

"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.", here Two did.

Look at what Paul stated to the young preacher Timothy-2 Timothy 4:4-10: "And they shall turn away {their} ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished {my} course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.", can you imagine the heart ache of Paul, when those who fought with him at one time are tempted by Satan and succumb to temptations!

Look at how the Apostle Peter identified Satan-1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:", and he does! Be on guard against the whiles of Satan.

There are those that believe a part of the Bible but refuse to obey it all. They have picked and chose the things that are comforting to them. They are referred to as "Faith Only". But, does not The Word of God reveal that a working faith is what profits man. In Galatians 5:6 "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." But faith alone precludes Love, Repentance, Confession, and Baptism. The Bible clearly teaches that all are necessary for salvation. Please consider the following statement in James 2:24 "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.", This is the only place in The Bible that states "Faith Only",

and we can plainly see that it does not stand by itself.

Yes we do need Faith, but we must have all the qualities that are revealed to us. Please listen to The Lord's Apostle rather than man, in 1Timothy 4:16 "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Now the next group that we will look at are those who do not like to be restricted, they have new ideas, they are "The Innovators". Innovators are not hesitant to add, subtract or to modify The Written Word. They always have a better way, like, how one man became the pope, sprinkling became a more convenient way, or instrumental music was placed in the house of worship. Simply put they will innovate even when their leaders are against it. They demand their liberty to do as they please. These could not have written the Bible! Turn to Deuteronomy 4:2 "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish {ought} from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." or Matthew 5:18 "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.". Of course this is talking about The Old Law that God gave to Moses. Why wouldn't God say the same thing about the New Testament, that cost His beloved Son to be crucified? How would they justify Proverb's 30:6 "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.", also consider Revelation 22:18-19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and {from} the things which are written in this book." Remember Paul's statement to the Galatians 1:8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." It is quite evident that God has never authorized anyone to change His Word.

Now can we identify another group from the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Corinthians: 1Corinthians 6:9-10 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." What Paul is describing here are Reprobates. Paul is not the only Apostle directed by the Holy Spirit that condemns this group, listen to John in the book of Revelations, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.". God not only condemn decadence and riotous living, but exhorted His creation to Righteousness and godliness; Turn to 1Thessalonians 4:3-7 "For this is the will of God, {even} your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no {man} go beyond and defraud his brother in {any} matter: because that the Lord {is} the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.", and again in Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;".

Finally we look at the "Lukewarm Christian". Of a surety, they would not write the Bible! Notice what God has reveal about "Lukewarmness", in Revelation 3:16 "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." What did Paul exhort our brethren to do in Romans 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;".

Bottom line:

DO NOT SUBSTITUTE "WALKING IN THE LIGHT" For The Ways Of Death! PLEASE READ 1John 1:5-7 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness

at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

There are groups of individuals that believe that "One Church Is As Good As Any Other", they are commonly referred to as "Sectarians". In this case individuals seek to find a group that conforms to their ideas (taste, personalities, etc.). Now let us turn to 1Corinthians 1:10 "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and {that} there be no divisions among you; but {that} ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."; and then in Ephesians 1:22-23 "And hath put all {things} under his feet, and gave him {to be} the head over all {things} to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." and again in Ephesians 4:4 "{There is} one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;"; Now who is the Head of the "One Body" that is "The Church"? In the Colossians Letter we read "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all {things} he might have the preeminence.", and continue to verse 24,"Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:". It is not difficult to understand, that a Sectarian could not of written the aforementioned Scriptures. What will be their inheritance? Not The Kingdom of God! Galatians 5:19-21 states clearly, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are {these}; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told {you} in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."