

The Bible:



Man's Sole
Religious Authority

EVERY GOOD WORK

The following verses from the Bible explain that the Bible provides all we need to know for salvation. It is our contention that Christians should guide their spiritual lives and their religious practices solely by the Bible. We should speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent. What is less than the teaching of the Bible falls short of doing all of God's will. What is more than the Bible adds to God's will, thus becoming man's law and not God's.

2Timothy 3:16

"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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Comment: This passage reveals to us that true

scripture comes by God's inspiration. Because of this it comes with God's stamp of approval. What originates with man may or may not be pleasing to God, and for this reason cannot be used as our authority in spiritual matters. God's word provides all we need.

Jude 3

"...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."

Comment: Jude 3 contains two very important ideas. (1) We must contend (fight, battle, wrestle) in defense of the faith (the teaching of the New Testament). (2) This "faith" has been delivered one time for all time. Since it is impossible to contend for something that is designed to change on a continual basis, the faith (body of Christian doctrine) must be complete and need no additions. Therefore, we need no revelations of God's will beyond what is in the Bible.

Deuteronomy 4:2

"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

Comment: Even in Old Testament times the principle of the self-sufficiency of God's word held true. Notice that this passage tells why the Israelites were not either to add or to subtract: it was so that they could keep God's commandments. If they either added or subtracted, the law would no longer be God's law but man's. Today, if we are to keep God's New Testament law, we must not add to it or subtract from it. See Revelation 22:18-19.

2John 9-11

"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides

in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”

Comment: The word “doctrine” in this passage means teaching. What Christ taught and passed on to His apostles (John 14:26) was recorded by the apostles and prophets in the New Testament—it is the foundation of truth upon which the church rests. (Ephesians 2:20) 2John 9-11 tells us that we must remain within the boundaries of this teaching or we lose our salvation and endanger others.

2Timothy 1:13

“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus”

Comment: According to this passage, there is a pattern

(blueprint or mold) in what the apostles taught, a pattern to which we must adhere. This principle is simple. If we wish to establish the church which Jesus built (Matthew 16:18) in today's age, all we must do is build by the same blueprint He used and the church will be the same. Similarly, a carpenter will build two houses exactly the same only if he follows the same blueprint carefully both times he builds.

1Peter 4:11

"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God."

Comment: The oracles of God (God's word) should be our mode of speech. Today, we hear all sorts of modern religious phraseology such as rapture, reverend, Father Jones, Purgatory, Pastor, praying through, second work of grace, original sin, slain in the spirit, etc. Much of what

we hear does not come from God's word at all, and what does is misused. When we coin our own phrases or misuse the words of the Bible, it is not long before we will be doing things for which there is no Biblical authority.

Ephesians 4:14-15

"...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ."

Comment: The officers of the church (Ephesians 4:11) were given so that we all can have access to the truth and are not led astray by false doctrine. Growth as a Christian requires truth, for error leads us away from Christ and spiritual growth. This passage assures us that there are those who teach error and that we must be on our guard

against it.

Acts 20:29-31

"For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."

Comment: Paul warns that the church will be destroyed by false teachers if the elders do not protect it. The only defense against false teaching is the true word of God as it stands complete in the New Testament. Whatever does not measure up to the word, whatever goes beyond, whatever falls short is false and spiritually dangerous to the flock of God.

1Timothy 4:1-3

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”

Comment: Timothy, a young preacher, was warned by Paul that false teachers would eventually begin to add to God’s word by the addition of rules not found in scripture. We might not think that such additions amount to much, but Paul calls them doctrines of demons and lies. What we might consider as slight additions to the teaching of the New Testament were taken very seriously by the apostles because they challenge the authority of God.

Spiritual safety is found in doing God's will, nothing more, nothing less.

1John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Comment: One final warning. The religious world today is no different than that of John's day in respect to the presence of false teachers. They teach on Television, radio, in churches on Sunday and they write in books. Popularity does not guarantee that they are true. The size of their organization tells us nothing about truth. Their education is no test. Even the seeming miracles they perform cannot tell us that they are true spokesmen for God (see 2Thessalonians 2:1-11). Our only defense is to know, love and apply the word of God—to measure what is said by the only true standard, the Bible.