

Upcoming Events...
Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
Barnabas Group Meeting: July 24

Great Statements about the Bible

"The first and almost the only Book deserving of universal attention is the Bible." John Quincy Adams

"I have always believed in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, whereby they have become the expression to man of the Word and will of God." Warren G. Harding

"The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed." Patrick Henry

July Birthdays

22 Morgie McKnight

30 Willie Henderson

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Is the Bible Complete?

By Jimmy W. Cox

For most of us, such a question is not necessary. For the Bible is the "Word of God". It contains 66 books, starts with Genesis, and ends with Revelation. It gives instructions for three different ages— Patriarchal, Jewish, Christian. We live in the Christian age— Read Acts, chap. 2, for its beginning.

However, some religious groups, and many individuals claim that the Holy Spirit has appeared unto them, and gave them certain messages. However, if such messages in any way are different from the Word of God, then we know they did not come from the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit.

Let us notice 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *"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."* The phrase, "all scripture", includes all the inspired words of God.

2 Peter 1:20-21 *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* Also read John 6:63.

2 Peter 1:3 *"As His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue."* The "knowledge" of Christ (2 Peter 1:2), can be fully known by a study of both Old and New

Testaments, which contain the totality of inspired scripture (Psalm 119:160, Psalm 139:17). Without a knowledge of the totality of the inspired scriptures, how could we have been given "all things that pertain to life and godliness."?

Jude 1:3 tells us that the faith was "*once for all delivered to the saints.*" The meaning here is that God's truth has been "once" delivered for all time. It is a permanent delivery from God that will never be superseded, amended or modified. (Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:6-12).

James 1:25 "*But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*" The word "perfect" is from a Greek word meaning "finished, complete, perfect." If you add to, or take away from that which is "perfect", then it is no longer perfect. Obey God's "perfect word."

Can We Understand the Bible Alike?

By Jon Mitchell

The title is an understandable question, especially in light of the religious division and confusion that exists in Christendom today. Of the counted minimum of two thousand different sects and faiths which proclaim to be Christian, all have great regard for the Bible and claim to follow it. However, common sense suggests that such is not the case when all proclaim to follow the Bible and yet believe and practice different ideas and doctrines.

Jesus knew that we could understand his Word in the same way and follow it with complete unity (John 17:20-23). So did Paul (Philippians 2:2). After Christianity started on the day of Pentecost after Christ's death, the first converts "*continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching*" (Acts 2:42) and "*the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul*" (Acts 4:32). Quite a contrast from today! The saints in Rome were

instructed to be on the lookout for those who caused "*divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine*" they had learned, and avoid them (Romans 16:17) How could they have obeyed that command without being taught to agree upon the doctrine that they had been taught? When a congregation was divided, Paul by divine inspiration wrote them that there should be no divisions among them and commanded them to speak the same thing (1 Corinthians 1:10). How could this divine order be carried out if people are unable to understand the Word of God alike?

The reasons there are divisions about what the Bible says are many. First, all of us and our judgments are not perfect. Either by failing to study diligently or by failing to practice proper, consistent interpretive principles, we misunderstand biblical teaching and divide over it. Secondly, some believe that the Holy Spirit directs us in our study of Scripture and leads us to the truth, but such an idea is proven incorrect time and time again when two men both claim that the Spirit guided them to different conclusions about the same biblical passage. Thirdly, efforts to accurately interpret the Bible are often hindered by an absence of complete, 100% open-minded objectivity. Some subconsciously try to avoid dealing with the guilt of their sin and so twist the Scriptures to suit their ungodly lifestyles, while others are too loyal to family, peers, or their own religion and habits and thus approach the Bible with a closed mind.

When someone says that we can't understand God's will alike, that person has either never really engaged in a diligent, systematic study of the Bible or he is somehow seeking to justify a religious view or practice that is not according to the Bible. Therefore he attacks the Bible as being a book that no one can understand rather than admitting that he believes something that God does not teach. However, we all can understand Scripture alike.

We just choose not to.