

Upcoming Events...

Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: today at 4:00 p.m.

Barnabas Group Meeting: May 29

How Important is the Bible?

"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." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"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." James 1:25

"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." 2 Peter 1:20-21

May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff

15 Kena Brown

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

Church of Christ

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This bulletin edition emphasizes the Importance of the Bible

Authority in Religion

Author Unknown

(but a great article!! "keep it handy" JB)

Only two sources of authority exist in religion. Authority is "*from heaven* [Divine] *or from men* [human]" (Matthew 21:25). Human authorities consist of such things as the rulings of one man or a council/convention of men, creed books, the majority vote of members, and personal conscience. Such sources constitute no standard at all, for they are all subjective, arising from the thoughts, desires, philosophies, and whims of men. Human authorities in religion produce doctrinal division and confusion and endorsement of such things as sexual immorality, drinking, and gambling.

Jeremiah stated the fallacy of reliance upon human religious authority: "*O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps*" (Jeremiah 10:23).

Right religion demands an objective standard, one that originates apart from human thinking, desires, and opinions. The Bible is verily that objective standard.

While approximately forty men were employed in its writing, they did not write their own philosophies and thoughts. They spoke "*not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth*" (1 Corinthians 2:13). The Bible came from men who "*spoke from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit*" (2 Peter 1:21).

The Bible is our Creator's revelation of Himself and His will to His rational creation. Men could not know the will or the plan of God for us without the revelation of this mystery through the inspired men (1 Corinthians 2:7-10). No one knows one thing about how to worship God so as to please Him apart from the New Testament. Apparently, many think that God is somehow obligated to accept whatever they choose to offer, but not so. We must worship Him *"in spirit and in truth"* (John 4:23-24), and only the Bible tells us how to do so. Jesus said that men who reject Bible doctrine for their own precepts worship in vain (Matthew 15:9).

Likewise, the New Testament is the only source of information on how God wants us to behave in our daily lives. The world is drowning in its own moral filth because so many people have rejected God and His will in favor of their own subjective, selfish lusts (Romans 1:21-32).

Without the Bible we would not know that we are sinners in need of salvation. Moreover, we would never have known of God's gracious plan to save us had He not revealed it to us in His Word, the only source of this information.

We Can Know the Truth

By Jimmie Z Gribble

Knowledge is extremely important in many fields. If we are in need of surgery, we want a doctor that is very knowledgeable of the procedure that we need. If we are in need of a lawyer, we want one that is very knowledgeable in the area of our need. A commercial advertises, in a humorous way, that staying with them makes you very knowledgeable. And, most of us remember the joke concerning a repairman and a bill. The repairman comes, repairs a product, and sends the bill: replacing the part, \$1.25, knowing which part to replace, \$125.00. Knowledge is extremely important in many fields.

We have heard the phrase, "Jack of all trades, and master of none." None of us can know everything. However, all of us can know

God's word. And, of all the fields where knowledge is extremely important, this field surpasses them all. The knowledge of medicine and the human body enables us to live longer on this earth. Many of us, without this knowledge, would have left this life long ago. However, the knowledge of God's word has eternal value and benefits associated with it.

Jesus said that we can know the truth. John records, *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). The word of God is given to us in words that we can understand and know. Peter tells us that we need to grow in this knowledge. He penned, *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen"* (2 Peter 3:18). It is through this study that we can present ourselves approved unto God. Paul wrote to Timothy, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15).

To those that "know not" there is punishment waiting, 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff. However, God wants us all saved. Inspiration said, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9).

Beloved, knowledge is extremely important in many fields. The most important field is concerned with God's word, our knowledge of it, and our application of it to our lives. Know the TRUTH!

Beloved, listen to all of God's word; God will do thee good!

"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."***? 2 Peter 1:3