

Lesson 3

“The Bible: The Authoritative Word of God”

1. The authority of the Bible is in the Bible. One of the most important evidences of authority is also the SIMPLEST because the Bible is its own proof. There is NO HIGHER AUTHORITY. The Scriptures never need to be DEFENDED. The Bible defends itself.
2. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bear witness to the AUTHORITY of the Scripture.
2 Peter 1:20 & 21

Basic Scriptures include:

Psalms 119; Isaiah 40:6-8; Matt. 5:17-19; Matt. 19:4&5; Matt. 22:29-32; Matt. 26:54-56; Luke 24:25-32; Luke 24:44-45; John 10:35; Romans 15:4; 16:26; Galatians 3:8; 1 Timothy 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16

3. Our highest authority is the teachings of Christ because no fault was ever found in Him. Even Pilate said, “I FIND NO FAULT IN HIM.”
4. The Bible is the authoritative Word of God because the Son, JESUS has set His STAMP OF APPROVAL on the entire Book.
5. How did Jesus set His stamp of approval on the written Word of God? By QUOTING from its pages and by REFERRING to stories from the Old Testament as true.
6. God the Father also testifies to the fact of the AUTHORITY of the Scriptures all through the Bible. See Psalm 119:89; 119:160.
7. Phrases such as “And God said,” “The Word of the Lord came to,” “The Word of the Lord spoke to,” can be found 3,808 times in the Old Testament alone.
8. In the book of Leviticus practically every chapter begins “The Lord said to Moses.” God is the SPEAKER, Moses is the HEARER.
9. God spoke His plan of redemption into being. The first record of God’s plan is found in GENESIS 3:15.
10. God loves us so much that He made it possible for us to be redeemed from our sin knowing full well that His Son Jesus would have to PAY THE PRICE.
11. The Bible itself declares that it is the WORD OF GOD. See Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Joshua 1:8; 8:32-35.
12. The Word is SURE, PERFECT, ENDURES FOREVER, and is TRUE!
See Psalm 12:6; 19:7-11

13. The Word is ETERNAL. See Psalm 119:89, 152, & 160. See also Isaiah 40:8.
14. The Word of God is EFFECTIVE. See 1 Thessalonians 2:13 & 1 Peter 1:23
15. The HOLY SPIRIT bears witness that the Bible is the Word of God.
2 Peter 1:19-21
16. 2 Peter 1:20 means that the prophets did not ORIGINATE the message, they merely wrote what they were TOLD TO WRITE. The message came from God.
17. The Holy Spirit gave the message to the WRITERS. See 2 Samuel 23:1&2; Jeremiah 1:7-9; Daniel 12:8 and Zechariah 4:6
18. God used many ways to REVEAL HIS MESSAGE. Hebrews 1:1&2
19. The words of scripture were not only given by the Holy Spirit, but are also TAUGHT by Him. 2 Corinthians 2:9-13
20. The scripture cannot be UNDERSTOOD without the teaching of the Holy Spirit.
1 Corinthians 2:14
21. The Apostle Paul said the words he spoke were not WISE and PERSUASIVE but were a demonstration of the POWER of the Spirit. 1 Cor. 2:4

(Special Notation)

Jesus Himself also gives testimony to the authority of the scripture. If we accept the teachings of Christ, we must accept His teachings concerning the Bible. See Matthew 5:17 & 18; 19:4; John 10:35.

22. Jesus regarded the Bible as DIVINE AUTHORITY. See Matthew 22:29-31; Matthew 24:37; Mark 7:13; Luke 24:44; John 5:39 & 46.
23. In speaking to people and in answering their questions, Jesus was constantly QUOTING THE SCRIPTURES. The Sermon on the Mount is a perfect example of this and is found in chapters 5-7 of Matthew.
24. When Jesus defeated SATAN in the wilderness, He QUOTED the scripture.
Matthew 4:4, 7, & 10.
25. Jesus said His own teaching was INSPIRED BY GOD. See John 6:63; 7:16; 8:28, 42 & 43; and 12:49 & 50
26. After His resurrection Jesus recognized the THREE DIVISIONS of the Old Testament and put His stamp of approval on each of them. Luke 24:44-46.

27. Jesus promised that the apostles would be HOLY SPIRIT DIRECTED in their writing and teaching. See Matthew 10:19 & 20; Mark 13:11; John 14:25 & 26; John 16:12-15; and John 15:26 & 27

Conclusion

The entire Bible is the authoritative Word of God because of the testimony of the Father, the Bible itself, the witness of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of Jesus.