BIBLIOLOGY

The Doctrine Of The Bible

The Lord has given us His Word in order for us to know with certainty what life with Him is in reality. And with our world so far from God with endless mixed ideas of Who He is, and what His Truth is in all matters. We MUST do a responsible study of the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15-16), relying on the Spirit’s leading (Romans 8:14), in order to learn God’s perspective of life – His Truth!

2 Timothy 3:16-17
16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

(The following is based on Richard Seymour’s, ‘Systematic Theology’.)

The Scriptures, the Word of God, is the means that the Lord has used to reveal Himself, and His commands to His children. This was the case with Israel, and it has been the case with the Church. And according to the Word of God, it is the only source where God’s children will find the Faith that the LORD has given, and that He acknowledges by His blessing and His Personal involvement.
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1. VARIOUS NAMES FOR THE BIBLE

1.1. Oracles of God.

“Oracle”, Greek ‘logia’ means an utterance (Strong’s Hebrew and Greek dictionaries). The “oracles of God” are the utterances of God.

**Romans 3:1-2**
1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?
2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

The Jews, Israel, had God’s utterances, God’s Words in writing – the law of Moses, and the whole Old Testament. The Church today has the utterances of God in both the Old and New Testaments. Meaning that the Bible is not the words, or writings of men, but the utterances, the words of God Himself.

**1 Peter 4:11** If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

The oracles, the utterances, of God are to rule in the lives of God’s children. God’s children are to speak according to the oracles of God, and not according to their personal beliefs, or the ways of their human cultures that they were born in.

**Hebrews 5:12** For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

The oracles, the utterances of God are here divided into “the first principles of the oracles of God”, and “milk”, as opposed to “strong meat”. God’s children are to be taught, “the first principles of the oracles of God”. They are to master, to live, “the first principles of the oracles of God”, and then be led of the Holy Spirit to desire to learn the, “strong meat”, of
the oracles of God. And God’s ministers in the local church are meant to be teaching the, "strong meat”, of the oracles of God as well.

_Ephesians 4:11-16_

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The Lord has ordained that every child of God is to be taught the “oracles of God” by the gifted men in the local church (verse 11). That they are to be led by their spiritual leaders, and the indwelling Holy Spirit, to spiritual maturity. But the teaching MUST be the oracles / utterances of God recorded in the Bible, and not anything else. Anything else would be what Paul is warning God’s children about in verse 14, “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

1.2. Scripture

“Scripture”, Greek ‘graphe’ means ‘a writing, thing written’. ‘The ‘Scripture’, used either to denote the book itself, or its contents. A certain portion or section of the Holy Scripture.’ (Strong’s Hebrew and Greek dictionaries).
2 Timothy 3:16-17 is a key passage of “scripture” that gives perhaps the best definition of just what the Bible is ... ‘a writing’ that was given to us from God by inspiration. i.e. God’s words. Given to achieve God’s purposes in His children, “That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17
16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

“Scripture”, is God’s Words, therefore is not to be read / studied and understood with the, this is what it means to me’ approach. Almighty God being the Author of “scripture” we must pursue His interpretation of “scripture”. And the Holy Spirit is the God ordained teacher of “scripture”. (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13 KJV).

2 Peter 1:20-21
20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.
21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1.3. The Scriptures

The Bible is also referred to as, “the scriptures”. i.e. THE ONLY scriptures. There aren’t any other scriptures from God. The Lord has given us His Word, His Scriptures, in one Book. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 is an example of how God’s children are to refer to the Scriptures as the authority for what they are saying or teaching...

1 Corinthians 15:3-4
3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
In Acts 17:11 the Bereans are being highly complimented because of their godly attitude towards the Scriptures. They examined ALL teaching, very carefully, by the scriptures in order to know God’s mind on anything.

Acts 17:11 These [THE BEREANS] were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

1.4. The Holy Scriptures

The Scriptures are called, “the holy scriptures”, because they are writings that are unlike any other writings ever written. The Scriptures are ‘set apart’ (holy) from all other writings in that they are inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16 KJV). Literally meaning ‘God breathed’, or spoken by God. Scripture was written by men chosen by the Holy Spirit to record in writing God’s revelation to man (2 Peter 1:20-21 see above). Holy Scripture, God’s revelation to man, is therefore as true and as pure as the words that come from the mouth of God.

Romans 1:2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures.)

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1.5. The Law And The Prophets

Before the Holy Spirit brought The Church into existent, and then gave The Church the New Testament of our Bibles, God’s children then – Israel, used terms like, “the law and the prophets” to refer to God’s Word. Meaning the law of Moses and the writings of the prophets.

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.
Matthew 7:12  Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Christ here teaches we are to look to His Word (“the law and the prophets”), the Scriptures, for everything relating to our walk / life with the Lord. i.e. The reason why we believe what we believe must be because we have been taught from God’s Word. When we share spiritual truths with people, like Christ here, we must give Scripture as the authority for what we say or teach.

1.6. Old Testament

The “old testament” means the ‘old covenant’ (agreement, contract) which the Lord had with Israel, before He gave His ‘new covenant’, with the Church, since the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2.

2 Corinthians 3:14  But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.

1.7. New Testament


Mark 14:24  And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

2 Corinthians 3:6  Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Hebrews 9:15  And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.
1.8. The Word Of God

1.8.1. God’s Spoken Words

Sometimes the term, “the word of God”, or, “the word of the LORD”, refers to the verbal commands that the Lord gave to prophets in the Old Testament...

1 Kings 12:22-24
22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying,
23 Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying,
24 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD.

1.8.2. God’s Written Words

The written Scriptures are also referred to as the, “word of God”. This term is very important teaching that the Scriptures ARE from the Lord. That they are just as authoritative, and just as true, as the Lord’s actual spoken words.

In John 10:25 “the word of God” and “scripture” are spoken of as one and the same thing...

John 10:35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

In Acts 4:31 the disciples would have been preaching the Gospel, which would have at that point included sharing the prophecies of the Messiah that Christ fulfilled. Therefore, the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament and the Gospel of the New Testament are, “the word of God.” i.e. The whole Bible is the authoritative Scriptures, the word of God, which are just as authoritative as the very spoken words of God.
Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 18:11, what exactly did they teach during the year and a half in Corinth? Paul was at Corinth where many believed in Christ in response to his ministry. And for a year and a half Paul remained there teaching the Word of God. Meaning he taught them that Christ fulfilled the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. That He was the long awaited Messiah that was promised by the Lord. And then to those who were saved, he would have taught the spiritual life of the New Testament child of God of the Church. The very teachings we now have recorded in the New Testament epistles. This again demonstrates that the prophetic writings of the prophets, and the New Testament epistles are the word of God. The whole Bible is the word of God!

Acts 18:11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Romans 10:17, what a powerful Scripture! All faith needed (required) for an individual to be born again, and then for them to develop a walk / life with God, comes through the word of God! Starting in each individual with the witness of creation to its Creator (See Romans 1:18-32 KJV), and then through the preaching / teaching of the written Word of God (See Romans 10:17 below). Personal faith developing as the individual responds positively to the work of God in them through the preacher / teacher, together with the vital inner working of the Holy Spirit (See also 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 KJV, “God gave the increase”, and, “we are labourers together with God:”)

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Acts 19:18-20, here it is the influence, the success, of the preaching and teaching of “the word of God” (the Christian Faith that was busy being recorded in writing for later generations of Christians) in the hearts and minds of many people that is being referred to in verse
20. God’s Word was finding acceptance, a definite lodging place in the hearts and minds of people in Ephesus, “So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.” Meaning that the dual ministry of Paul and the Holy Spirit were being successful in the hearts and minds of these people. This is outwardly demonstrated by their turning from their wicked practices (see verse 18 and 19 below). This is significant because the people being preached to, in Ephesus, were caught up in false religion and wicked spiritualism. Which led ultimately to winning their souls to Christ.

**Acts 19:18-20**

18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.
19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.
20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

The Ephesians in Acts 19 were responding to the preaching of Paul to his call for, “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 20:21b).

The following Scriptures record the blessed success of the early church in the preaching of “the word of God”...

**Acts 6:7** And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

**Acts 8:14** Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

**Acts 11:1** And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

**Acts 12:24** But the word of God grew and multiplied.

The reason for the success, for the increase, of the word of God is for three reasons:
Firstly, the “word of God” is alive in the hearts and minds of those to whom it is ministered. It works on them to bring them to make decisions regarding the Lord and the life with Him, as His children, that He offers them. (See also the parable of the Sower – Matthew 13 - which teaches the four types of response to God’s Word people make. Note, only the fourth response brings one to being born again.)...

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This is why it is vital for God’s children to share the actual “word of God” when sharing, preaching to people. Otherwise they are merely sharing their own opinions, and are relying on their own words to convince people. Where it is the living word of God together with the inner working of the Holy Spirit that drives home the truths of the Word of God being shared.

Secondly, the Lord’s inner working in the hearts and minds of people is needed for the ministering of the “word of God” to bear fruit...

1 Corinthians 3:6-7
6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.
7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. ... For we are labourers together with God:...

Thirdly, the “word of God” preached must be accepted as the “word of God” by those being preached to. This will happen if they respond positively to the inner working of the Holy Spirit. They must be receptive to the truths of the “word of God” for a work of God to be achieved to bring them to being born again. And then to lead them from being like the wicked world around them to being more and more like Christ.
1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received **the word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, **the word of God**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
2. REVELATION

Definition

Revelation is the term used when referring to the Lord revealing to man that which he cannot otherwise know. ‘God making known to man what otherwise must be unknown’ (L. S. Chafer)

2.1. The Old Testament

Moses was given the Law by which Israel served the Lord and lived by. The Lord also revealed to us through Moses the Creation account (Genesis 1-2 KJV).

Exodus 20:1-17
1 And God spake all these words, saying,
2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
13 Thou shalt not kill.
14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
15 Thou shalt not steal.
16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

See Exodus 20 – 23 KJV for the whole Law that governed the Lord’s relationship with Israel. These laws were the Lord’s revelation to Israel, and to the whole world through Israel. Israel were a showcase nation to the whole world to witness the blessedness of having the one true God as their God. As opposed to false handmade, and culturally evolved gods.

**Deuteronomy 4:5-8**
5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.
6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.
7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?
8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Israel were responsible to live strictly according to God’s revelation to them through Moses...

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2**
1 Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.
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.

**Deuteronomy 5:27-29**

27 Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it.

28 And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the LORD said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken.

29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Over the history of the Lord’s dealings with His nation Israel, He communicated through prophets whom He sent to guide them. And many times to rebuke them for their unfaithfulness to His will given by revelation.

*Jeremiah 36:4* Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

*Isaiah 6:1, 8-9*

1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ...

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

9 And he said, Go, and tell this people...

In the Old Testament the Lord gave direct *revelation* to Israel through chosen holy men...

*2 Peter 1:21* For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as
2.2. The New Testament

The Lord moved from the dispensation of His dealings with man through the law, through the nation of Israel, to the new dispensation of grace, the Church. The Church was brought into existence after the substitutionary death of Christ, on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. The Church required new revelation, as to just what the new dispensation of God’s dealings with man would be, through the new medium of the New Testament Church.

Unlike the dispensation of the law where the revelation of God continued for most of Israel’s history before Christ. The revelation of God to the Church happened all during the lives of Christ’s apostles whom He personally discipled, and Paul.

2.2.1. The New Testament Revelation Promised

Before leaving our world, the Lord Jesus, promised His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to guide them into ALL Truth for the then future Church...

John 16:13  Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

2.2.2. The New Testament Revelation Given

The promised Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost...

Acts 2:1-4
1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...
As one would expect the Apostles taught the first converts to faith in Christ just what the Holy Spirit was revealing to them about faith and life in Christ. The new converts did not continue in the faith of Israel of the Old Testament, the faith the Lord had given to the nation of Israel, to whom peoples of other nations had to join themselves as proselytes to be part of God’s children (See and example Acts 8:26-39 KJV). Those born again and added to the Church believed and followed the “apostles’ doctrine”. The “apostles’ doctrine” being the revelation of God through the Holy Spirit for the Church.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

An example of the Holy Spirit guiding the apostles into the new dispensation of God’s dealings with man through the Church, is when the Lord reminded them that they were to not just focus on Jews, as was their faith under the law, but to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles as well.

Christ had already commissioned them to preach the Gospel to the whole world...

Matthew 28:19-20
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

It seems that the Jewish mindset of keeping completely separate from Gentiles, and only ministering to Jewish people, needed help moving over to understanding that the Church is for all nations. And that they were to have the goal of reaching all people. And so, through revelation from God, the apostles were taught one of the major differences between the Church and Israel / the law...

The Lord told Cornelius, a Roman, through a vision, to send for Peter whom would tell him what God’s will for him was...
Acts 10:1-6
1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,
2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.
3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.
4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.
5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:
6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

The Lord prepared Peter for the men sent from Cornelius through a vision (See Acts 10:9-17 KJV for the description of the vision). When the men from Cornelius arrived at that time the Holy Spirit told Peter...

Acts 10:19-20
19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.
20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

Peter went with the men, and took Jewish witnesses, to travel to minister to Cornelius and the people that Cornelius gathered together for this momentous occasion. Where Peter shared the Gospel with them and reaped a Holy Spirit prepared harvest of these Gentiles. And as was the case in the early Church there was the witness of the indwelling Spirit through their speaking in tongues...
Acts 10:44-47
44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.
45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.
46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,
47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

The revelation of God, in this case, was to take Peter and then the rest of the apostles to the new, very different thinking and ways of God in the Church, through a hand in hand, step by step revelation of God’s will in this matter. (Read the whole blessed account in Acts 10, and Acts 11-1-18 KJV).

2.2.3. The Holy Spirit Is Not Just The Comforter, But The ‘Reminderer’

I just created a word, ‘Reminderer’ 😊. I hope that it helps to communicates to you the vital part that the Holy Spirit played in the revelation of God’s Truth to the apostles.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Lord Jesus spent three years with His disciples teaching them as they lived and travelled together. At that time they were spiritually immature and often could not understand what their Lord taught them. That was not a problem for the Lord as they did not need to understand all His teaching at that time. The time would come when they would need to understand His teaching, and be able to teach those truths to others. When they would have the Holy Spirit within them to remind them of Christ’s teaching, and to bring them to understand it.
And so some of the “apostles’ doctrine” that the apostles taught the early church, was first revealed / taught to them by Christ. And then brought to their remembrance, as well as brought to their understanding, by the Holy Spirit when they needed to teach and record God’s Truth for the Church.

The Holy Spirit’s ministry to, and through the Apostles, to the early Church was essential. God’s revelation to the Church had to be revealed without fault, and had to be recorded without fault. Without the Holy Spirit’s ministry that would not have been possible.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13
12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

This passage refers to the total work of the Holy Spirit in bringing God’s revelation to each responsive person. The Holy Spirit started with the Apostles of Christ giving them ALL truth for the Church. Both reminding them of what they were taught by Christ, and opening their understanding of those truths, as well as revealing that which they still needed to be taught of God’s Truth for the Church. The goal, as has been stated, was to reveal to them ALL of God’s truth for the Church.

The apostles then taught God’s Truth for the Church verbally, as well as through epistles to local churches and certain individuals, effectively – according to the will of God – recording God’s Truth for the Church. Which would then at a later stage, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, collectively be used to create the written New Testament of God’s Word.

While the Holy Spirit started and completed His vital work of revelation to the Lord’s apostles, He continues working in and through individual children of God. Though His work with God’s children
thereafter has only been to open their understanding of the spiritual truths that ARE recorded in God’s Word.

2.2.3.1. How Do We Know That The Holy Spirit Did Reveal All Truth, For Not Just The Early Church, But Also For The Entire Church Age?

2.2.3.1.1. Through Christ’s Promise

The Lord Jesus’ promise, that we have already looked at, if taken literally - as the Word of God must always be taken unless told otherwise by specific Scriptures’ context - assures us that the Holy Spirit would, and therefore did, give ALL teaching for the entire Church age through the Lord’s apostles. All Truth right up until Christ would rapture, remove the Church, from the world (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 KJV).

*John 16:13* Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into ALL truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

2.2.3.1.2. Other Scriptures That Confirm That The Lord Gave All Truth To the Apostles

The Christian Faith Was Only “Once Delivered”

The apostle Jude writes about the fact that the Christian Faith was “once delivered”, ‘once revealed’ from God. That God’s revelation to the Church was not ongoing revelation / teaching as to what the Church, or the spiritual life of the child of God is. It, “was once delivered unto the saints.”

*Jude 1:3* Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
The Use Of The Term “Sound Doctrine” In The Context Of Keeping To What The Holy Spirit Revealed To The Apostles

“Sound doctrine” is the same use of the word ‘sound’ as in ‘sound health’. As we know ‘sound health’ is ‘good health’. The same Greek word for, “sound”, is translated ‘whole’, ‘health’, ‘safe’ and ‘wholesome’ in the New Testament.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

The Apostle Paul here warns his disciple Timothy of a future time when the opportunity that they now have to minister to a responsive people will be gone. The people of their time were receptive to God’s Word, but the Lord revealed to Paul that that time would pass, and people would not allow the Holy Spirit to lead them. Rather they would turn from the ‘Holy Spirit given faith’ to teachers whose teaching would appeal to their sinful flesh, “after their own lusts”, “having itching ears”. Where they would want to be ‘entertained’, and hear ‘exciting new things’. But that is just the point! There will never be new things in Christianity! Christianity is the same blessed walk and life with God as it was in the beginning. Apart from the revelation that was still happening in the very early stages of the Church. And the mass miracles that the Lord used to authenticate, to the Jews, that the new work that the Lord was doing through the Church was of Him and not man (Hebrews 2:3-4 KJV).

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Paul writing to Titus regarding the appointment of elders in local churches, lists, “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught”, and, “by sound doctrine”, as the elders’ means to, “convince the gainsayers.”, to win people to the Lord and His ways. The Holy Spirit will only work in a ministry where people are, “Holding fast the faithful word”, the once delivered Faith, “by sound doctrine”, through the written Word of God (1 Corinthians 3:6-9 KJV).
And again...

_Titus 2:1_ But speak thou the things which become **sound doctrine**:

**Warning That The Apostles Themselves, And Even Angels From Heaven May Not Change The Teaching That The Apostles Taught/Were Given By The Holy Spirit**

**Galatians 1:6-9**

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:  
7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.  
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.  
9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Preaching, “any other Gospel”, would be any changes from that which the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit revealed to the apostles. Either taking away from the Biblical Gospel, or adding to it.

**2.3. Distinctions between Inspiration, Illumination and Revelation.**

**2.3.1. Inspiration**

_2 Timothy 3:16_ **All scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

“All SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God”. Not one word of the Bible is not the product of God’s inspiration. What does the Lord mean by “inspiration of God”? These 3 words come from one Greek word θεοπνευστος meaning ‘God breathed’ - literally. Meaning spoken by God – His Words.
The Holy Spirit chose certain holy men to reveal Truth / doctrine though. Scripture is not simply what was thought wise or good by God’s people in the past. Scripture (the bible) is truth / doctrine directly from God. The Scriptures show that the Lord has always been very particular about His children keeping His will for them, exactly as He has instructed them. The only way that this is possible is for us to have His will recorded, so that we can learn it from an infallible source – His Book, the Bible.

The Extent Of God’s Inspiration Is Not Conceptual, But Verbal – The Very Words Were Inspired By God

**Psalms 12:6-7**

6 The WORDS of the LORD are PURE WORDS: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.
7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

**Proverbs 30:5** EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but MY WORDS shall not pass away.

Because it is so important to the Lord that we have access to His Truth for us, He has taken great care in its deliver to us. That the fallible men that He gave it to us through, would not taint, or spoil it by their natural, human weaknesses. If we look at how it could be possible that the writers of the Bible could write perfect books from how reliable each were. Then we will naturally be skeptical in being able to completely trust the books of the Bible completely. But when we consider that the Bible is God’s revelation to man, and that He is the One behind the giving of His revelation to us. And that He is the One behind its accuracy. Then that is a different world altogether.
Through the Lord men and women have done the impossible. Moses parted the Red Sea for the children of Israel to cross on dry land. Peter walked on the sea! Not humanly possible unless the Lord enabled them to do so.

And so with the transmission of His Truth to us, the Lord – in His own interests, and purposes to man – was behind the perfectly accurate recording of His Truth. So that we today may be able to – after responsible – reading, studying and meditating on His Truths, and being led by His Spirit (Romans 8:14 KJV). To be able to know with certainty, “Thus saith the Lord!”, in all areas of His Truth.

2.3.2. Illumination

Illumination of God’s Word has to do with the Holy Spirit using God’s Word to bring correct understanding of the Lord and His will to the heart and mind of an individual...

Is the Ministry Of The Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:9-13

9  But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
10  But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
11  For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
12  Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
13  Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
Through The Word Of God

Psalms 19:8  The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, *enlightening the eyes*.

Psalms 119:130  *The entrance of thy words giveth light*; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Ephesians 1:18  *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened*; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

2 Timothy 3:15  And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, *which are able to make thee wise unto salvation* through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 10:32  But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

2 Peter 1:19  We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

2.3.3. Revelation

As we have being seeing Revelation, in the context of God’s Word, has to do with the Lord revealing to man Himself, and things that man could not know about creation, himself and God’s will.

*John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

See Exodus 20 – 23 KJV for the whole Law that the Lord revealed through Moses that governed the Lord’s relationship with Israel.

We saw, for the Church, the Lord gave new Revelation to Christ’s apostles through the discipleship of Christ and then the ministry of Holy Spirit.
John 16:13  *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:* for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
3. INSPIRATION

3.1. Definition

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

“All SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God”. Not one word of the Bible is not the product of God’s inspiration. What does the Lord mean by “inspiration of God”? These 3 words come from one Greek word θεοπνευστός meaning ‘God breathed’ - literally. Meaning spoken by God – His Words.

The extent of the Lord’s inspiration of His Word may be described using the following two terms:

3.2. Verbal Inspiration

‘Verbal Inspiration’, based on the testimony of the whole of the word of God, refers to the fact that the actual words of Scripture are inspired by God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 is the Lord’s foundational, revelation statement, of the extent of the whole of His Word, the Bible, as being from Him, as being His. Here we are noting this passage reveals that EVERY WORD in the Bible is from God, is there by His management control.

Adding to the teaching of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we have the following Scriptures demonstrating ‘verbal inspiration’...
Some passages are direct quotes of God Himself speaking...

**Exodus 20:1-17**

1 And God spake all these words, saying,
2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
13 Thou shalt not kill.
14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
15 Thou shalt not steal.
16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.
Exodus 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

Job 38:1-2
1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, 2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Etc. to Job 42:6

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

To each of the churches of Asia Minor John was commanded to write exactly what Christ gave him to write. Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18, 3:1, 7, 14. KJV

Example:

Revelation 2:1
1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
2. Etc. to verse 7

3.3. Plenary Inspiration

From 2 Timothy 3:16 the Lord also reveals that He gave His Word by ‘Plenary Inspiration’, which simply means that the entire Bible is God’s Word. There aren’t parts of God’s Word that are questionable because they are ‘only the words of the human writer’. No, all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, the whole Book. No part of the Bible can be said to not be from God. With every word being given by inspiration, logically the whole Book, the whole Bible is inspired as well.
3.4. Unscriptural Views Of The Bible’s Inspiration

3.4.1. Naturalistic Inspiration:

This theory holds that the Bible writers were men of great literary genius and of deep philosophical insight, that they were ‘inspired’ in the same way that Socrates, Shakespeare and Longfellow were inspired, that there is nothing supernatural in Biblical inspiration.

Being inspired by one’s environment, is hardly the same as being inspired by the Lord, to record parts of His Word according to His purposes in man. This is the claim of the Bible as we have seen from 2 Timothy 3:16.

3.4.2. Universal Christian Inspiration:

Regarding God’s revelation to man, this theory holds that all Christians of all times have been inspired by God. This theory ignores the Scriptures’ statements that the Lord gave all revealed truth for the Church through His apostles and prophets in the early Church. (John 16:13 KJV)

3.4.3. Mechanical Inspiration

This theory holds that the writers were like machines having nothing to do with the message that they recorded. This is not correct as it is easy to see the differing styles and personalities of the writers in their God inspired writings. The Lord spoke our universe into existence. It is not hard to appreciate that He has the ability to allow the writers personalities to show to some extent, and still have His Word recorded without fault.

3.4.4. Thought Inspiration

This theory holds that only the thoughts, not the very words of the Bible are inspired. Our primary Scripture on the subject of inspiration of God’s Word, helps us to the truth that it is the actual words of the Scriptures that the Lord inspired. (2 Timothy 3:16 KJV).
3.4.5. Partial Inspiration

This theory holds that only parts of the Bible are inspired. They would not say ‘The Bible is the Word of God,’ but rather, ‘The Bible contains the Word of God.’ We have seen that this theory is false according to the Scriptures. (2 Timothy 3:16 KJV).

If the Bible only ‘contains the Word of God’, then how would anyone know which ARE the actual words of God, and which are the mere, unreliable words of men? Nothing of the Christian Faith would be certain! And this is a very, very important point about the inspiration of God’s Word. If the WHOLE Word of God wasn’t given by inspiration of God, then we are left in uncertainty in every point of the Christian Faith! Praise God that He has revealed His Truth, the Word of God, by inspiration so that we were given a faultless revelation from Him, of all that we NEED to know about Him, and how to have life with Him.

It is the Lord’s intent that His children have certainty with Him...

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Hebrews 6:19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

3.5. Four Existing Attitudes Toward God’s Message.

The first three attitudes below, according to the Scriptures, are resisting the wooing ministry of the Holy Spirit, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Romans 8:14). As all who respond to His ministry come to be repentant towards God, and to have faith in Christ, “... repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 20:21b), “19 And this is the condemnation, that light [CHRIST] is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be
made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” (John 3:19-21). And therefore are led by the Holy Spirit to a Biblical view / attitude towards the Bible.

3.5.1. Rationalism

Rationalism is humanistic reasoning from one’s limited personal understanding and experience. They have been resistant of the Holy Spirit’s attempts to woo them to repentance towards God and faith in Christ (Acts 20:21 KJV). And thereafter to confidence in God’s Word.

**Extreme:**- Denies any divine revelation. No revelation no accountability!

**Moderate:**- Admits a revelation, but accepts only such parts of the Scriptures as personal reason approves. According to this claims that the Bible contains errors.

3.5.2. Mysticism

Holds that divine revelation is not limited to the Bible, but that God gives added truth to devout souls. As we have seen in earlier studies, the Lord gave ALL revelation for the Church through His apostles and prophets during the early days of the Church...

*John 16:13* Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

We saw that Scripture reveals that the Christian Faith WAS (past tense) once delivered unto the saints / Christians of the early Church, “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jude 1:3). Mystics are resisting the Holy Spirit’s attempts to lead them to Biblical Christianity and view of the Bible.
3.5.3. Roman Catholicism

The church of Rome places tradition and church authority above the Scriptures. The claims of Rome are:

(1) Christ and the apostles taught much that is not recorded. This has been preserved by an inspired church and constitutes a rule of faith as binding as the Scriptures. (Tradition)

(2) The church is the only infallible teacher and interpreter of Scripture. If Scripture conflicts with the church teachings, the Scripture must yield to the church.

(3) The message of the church is in matters of faith and morals only.

(4) The present authorities, and all before, of the church of Rome are divinely constituted infallible; therefore, not subject to criticism.

These beliefs of Roman Catholicism towards God’s Word demonstrate that it is a false religion, and not Biblical Christianity.

3.5.4. The Bible Only Christian Faith

- The Bible is the infallible Word of God.
- The Bible is the only rule of faith and practice.
- Human reason and knowledge are wholly subject to the Scriptures. As the Bible reveals to man God’s view of everything – the correct view of everything. (See the point made in 1 John 2:15-17 (KJV) where the ways / views of the world are going to pass away, but the Lord and His children will continue with Him forever.).
- There is no inner light or added revelation ever given beyond what is contained in the Bible.
- No authority relative to the receiving and forming of the truth has ever been committed to the church or to men beyond that given to the new Testament writers.
4. PRESERVATION

(This section is based on chapter 17, ‘Principles of Bible Preservation’, from Jack Moorman’s book, ‘Missing In Modern Bibles.’)

Verbal inspiration of the Scriptures demand verbal preservation. This is the crux of the matter; does God preserve the Words that He originally inspired? If so, to what extent? Is it merely the concepts and basic message that is kept intact; or does preservation, as inspiration, extend to the words themselves? That the Bible declares both the fact and extent of its preservation is made abundantly clear in the following:

Know now that there shall fall unto the earth nothing of the word of the LORD. II Kings 10:10.

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD; thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. Psalm 12:6, 7.

For the LORD is good, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. Psalm 100:5.

For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Psalm 119:89.

Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it. Psalm 119:140.

Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever. Psalm 119:152.

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. Psalm 119:160.

Every word of God is pure. Proverbs 30:5.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. Isaiah 40:8.
So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55:11.

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. Matthew 5:18.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Matthew 24:35.

And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail. Luke 16:17.

The scripture cannot be broken. John 10:35.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. I Peter 1:23.

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. I Peter 1:25.

We have a strange contradiction today; Christians claim to believe what the Bible says about it’s own inspiration but deny or ignore the equally direct statements concerning preservation. The textual theories inherent in the modern versions must by their nature deny what the Bible says about preservation.

4.1. Preservation Must Be Approached in an Attitude of Faith

Like all Bible truths, the Scripture's teaching on its own preservation is to be in the first instance accepted by faith.

4.2. Preservation is Grounded in the Eternal Counsels of God

The words of Scripture are rooted in the eternal counsels of God. Though inspired and breathed out on earth in time, yet these words were in God’s mind from eternity. The words of Scripture therefore
are as eternal as God Himself. Are we now to believe that he would let them pass away?

_For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven._ Psalm 119:89.

### 4.3. Preservation is Brought to Pass Through the Priesthood of Believers

The Old Testament text was preserved by the Aaronic priests and the scribes who grouped around them. “What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.” (Romans 3:1-2).

In the New Testament dispensation every believer is a priest under Christ. Hence, the NT Text has been preserved by faithful Christians of every walk of life. “Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13), “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Romans 8:14).

It was not the pronouncements of church fathers or counsels that determined the Text and Canon of the New Testament. Rather, the Holy Spirit guided His own into the acceptance of the true Word of God. Such copies proliferated, while defective ones were ignored. To this very day, God raises up humble believers to defend His Words.

### 4.4. Preservation Extends to the Actual Words

Inspiration is verbal. It has to do with the actual Words of Scripture. Preservation must also deal with these same actual Words, not merely the general teaching or concepts. This is made clear in the above list of verses. Advocates of the modern versions commonly say: “There is not a single doctrine missing.” But, what they fail to tell you is that the words that support and develop these doctrines are frequently missing in their versions. The force of the doctrine is diminished. Inspiration and preservation of the Scriptures must _both_ be verbal.
5. ILLUMINATION

5.1. Definition

The doctrine of illumination contends that God the Holy Spirit illuminates a man’s mind as he reads the Bible, enabling him to receive and understand its message.

5.2. Illumination As It Affects The Three Classes Of Men

5.2.1. The Natural Man

The “natural man” is the one who has not been “saved”, they have not been “born again”, they are not a child of God. His understanding of the Lord and His Truths in the Scriptures, His ways, are a mystery to him...

(1) He cannot understand the spiritual Truths of God, which are revealed in God’s Word, because God’s Truths are spiritually discerned. And he does not have the spiritual capacity within himself to discern the spiritual Truths of the Word of God. “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

(2) The Word of God also reveals that he is blinded by Satan. “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). satan is allowed to influence the lost, and his influence over them is while they resist the attempts by the Holy Spirit to woo them to salvation through Christ (2 Timothy 2:26 KJV). Those that resist the Holy Spirit are influence by satan. And the longer an individual remains lost, the further from the Lord, and His ways, they are led by satan. And it is not simply in what they do that satan influences them. It is their very thinking, their values, their personality, that satan influences and changes them. Satan’s goal is
clearly to influence the lost to be so different from the Lord in their
thinking, their personalities, that they find the Lord distasteful,
someone to dislike, and even hate.

(3) The natural man, only receives illumination of God’s Word by the
Holy Spirit, as he responds positively to the illumination that God
makes available to him initially, in His attempts to win him to Himself.
The illumination of God that all man have is inherent illumination that
all start life with, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the
truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of
God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 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:” (Romans
1:18-20). Creation around man shows him the clear evidence of the
Lord as Creator (Psalm 19:1-3 KJV). He needs to respond to this
illumination with belief in a Creator. The next step in his illumination,
towards being won to Christ, is through the illumination of the Holy
Spirit in His attempts to woo them to Christ, "Nevertheless I tell you
the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away,
the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him
unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin,
and of righteousness, and of judgment:" (John 16:7-8). And if he
further responds to this inner working of the Holy Spirit, the Lord will
lead a Christian who is able to share the Gospel correctly to him.
Where between the Christian and the Holy Spirit they will attempt to
lead this lost soul to repentance toward God and faith in Christ, so
that they may be born again, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but
God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any
thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8
Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man
shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we
are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are
God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:6-9; See also Romans 10:13-14;
Acts 20:21; John 3 KJV).

But without the “natural man” being born again, the Truths of God
revealed through the Word of God will remain a mystery to him.
5.2.2. The Carnal Christian

The carnal Christian, though born again, is careless, and therefore knows little of the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit. They have their periods of great zeal for the Lord, but they allow the flesh to influence them instead of crucifying it daily. For this reason the Holy Spirit is not able to lead them into responsible studying of the Word of God. Where He will open the Truths of the Word of God to their understanding.

Examples

The Believers Of The Church At Corinth

The believers Corinth were not walking daily in obedience to the indwelling Holy Spirit’s leading. They resisted Him, and therefore were shallow in the understanding of God’s Truths. They were still only dealing with the “milk” Truths of the Christian Faith. Paul was not yet able to attempt to teach them the “meat” Truths of the Christian Faith. Being carnal – resistant to the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit – they would not understand, discern, the meaty, deeper spiritual Truths of the Christian Faith...

1 Corinthians 3:1-3
1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.
2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.
3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

The Typical Believer In These End Time, Laodicean Age...

The letters to the seven churches of Asian Minor, from the Lord in Revelation 2 and 3, though they were to actual local churches, they – being in the book of Revelation – are also the 7 ages that the Church would go through before the rapture of the Church, and the return of
Christ. The last of the 7, the church in Laodicea, was written to the Church of today.

The Lord is unsparing in His sharp rebuke to the “lukewarm” believers of today’s Laodicean age. The Lord is literally disgusted with these fickle believers! They make Him sick to His stomach with their ‘neither here nor there’ commitment. And if it weren’t for the fact that this letter was addressed to a church recognized by the Lord, and that He loves them and threatens to rebuke and chasten them, we would surely be convinced that the Lord is speaking to lost people. (See also Hebrews 12:5-13 where the Lord only chastens His children).

Revelation 3:14-19:-

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.
16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.
17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:
18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.
19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

As we see above, the carnal believer cannot understand the meat of the Word. i.e. The deeper spiritual Truths of God’s Word, “I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.” (1 Corinthians 3:2). These Christians are lazy, they are weak and unprofitable (useless) towards fulfilling their purpose in the interests of their Father. When they do speak for the Lord they typically do more harm than good because of their weak
grasp of God’s Truths. They speak from opinion rather than from what they KNOW through diligent study of God’s Word. Diligent study, honestly relying on the Holy Spirit to illuminate their minds with His Truth of the Christian Faith.

Such believers need to repent of their ungodly behaviour towards the Lord! “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” (Revelation 3:14-19). They have followed the sinful passions of their flesh instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to lead them in their walk with Him. Where He has been attempting to lead them into God’s Truth for the Church, and the daily spiritual life of a child of God.

Carnal, lukewarm, believers cause their spiritually minded brethren deep concern because of their carnality. It is very often uncertain if they are carnal believers, or lost religious people. Only the Lord can tell the difference. And for the carnal Christian they will have uncertainty of whether they are saved or not, as assurance of salvation also comes through the ministry of the Holy Spirit...

Romans 8:14-16
14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

5.2.3. The Spiritual Christian

The Scriptures are given for the purpose of illuminating the hearts and minds of God’s children. The OBEDIENT child of God will be led by the Holy Spirit to CAREFULLY read, study, and meditate on the Scriptures. They WILL be taught the Scriptures by the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit.

David, the man after God’s own heart, learnt the value of the illuminating value of God’s Word...
Psalms 119:104-105
104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.
105 NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

David learnt that the ways of God are unique, they are unique to Himself. And that through God’s Word he was able to gain understanding of the Lord, and His ways / will, which He commands all to learn and live by. David discovered that God’s Word gave him clear, accurate illumination / understanding of God’s ways for his whole life, both as to his future, “a light unto my path”, and in His daily walk with the Lord, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet”.

In Psalm 19 we are taught the precious truth of how the Lord reveals Himself to His fallen creatures...

Psalms 19:1-8
1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.
4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.
6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psalm 19:1-6, The whole of humanity are witnesses of the testimony that God’s creation gives of His existence. This passage reveals that creation declares “the glory of God”. That the testimony of creation is as a ‘voice’ declaring the glory of God, and what He has made, so clear is the testimony of Creation to the existence of our Creator. The
atheist is the person who has decided to resist acknowledging the ‘voice’ of creation around them. They have to deny what is always present with them – daily, moment by moment declaration of the fact of Almighty God.

Psalm 19:7-8, Creation illuminates the heart and mind about the fact of God, and some illumination of what kind of God He is. But, we all need greater detail of Who and What our Creator is. And the Word of God is given by Him for that reason. The Holy Spirit, is the Member of the Godhead, Who is ever present, to guide us into the truth of what the Word of God reveals about our Creator. Illuminating the heart and mind of the honest seeker. Bringing the honest seeker closer and closer to Himself as their hearts and minds open themselves to Him.

**John 16:7-8**

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.
8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

See also...

**2 Peter 1:19-21**

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:
20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.
21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Peter 1:19-21, Peter writes about the Word of God illuminating, enlightening, the heart of the child of God. Where initially the child of God’s heart is from the Lord’s perspective, “a dark place”, and that when their hearts / minds are illuminated by the Word of God as, “the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts”. Where true illumination of the Holy Spirit through God’s Word truly occurs, that individual is
given an understanding of God’s ways and His Truth – the way He sees things, His perspective. And the more the individual reads, studies and meditates on God’s Word, the more they will understand the Lord and get greater clarity of how He sees everything.

This is what is meant by being Spiritually minded in Romans 8, and being transformed by the renewing of your mind in Romans 12:1-2...

Romans 8:6  For to be carnally minded is death; but to be **spiritually minded** is life and peace.

**Romans 12:1-2**

1  I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
2  And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**The Holy Spirit, The Illuminator**

We have been referring to the Holy Spirit as the One who illuminates God’s Word to the obedient child of God. In the below passage we are taught the specifics of this vital truth...

**1 Corinthians 2:9-14**

9  But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
10  But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.
11  For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
12  Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
13  Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which **the Holy Ghost teacheth**; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

V9/ It is here stated that man is not capable of comprehending the glorious life that the Lord has prepared for those who love Him – His children. Both here in this life and the one to come.

V10/ The Lord has revealed the incomparable spiritual life of the child of God, firstly to the Apostles and prophets of the early church. In order to give us those precious truths to be perfectly recorded in writing. Then, with those truths perfectly recorded in the Scriptures, today’s child of God has the Holy Spirit to illuminate those recorded truths to him. So that he understands them as the Author intended him to.

V11/ Just as man’s spirit is intimately acquainted with himself, so is the Holy Spirit intimately acquainted with the Godhead / Trinity.

V12/ The KJV has by the Lord rendered the word “spirit” with a lower case ‘s’ signifying that it is not the Holy Spirit being referred to here but man’s spirit received at his spiritual birth.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Our physical birth produced our bodies, “flesh”, and our spiritual birth produced, “spirit”, or a spirit side to our being. Thus giving the person that is born again a spiritual capacity, ability, for a relationship with the Lord, as well as spiritual discernment (verse 14), to be able to be illuminated by His Word, through the Holy Spirit.

V13/ The truths that the apostle Paul speaks, are those taught by the Holy Spirit, which are not from man’s wisdom, but which are taught, illuminated, enlightened through the Holy Spirit. All in order that God’s children, “...might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” And that they not remain in spiritual darkness concerning the truths of the Lord.
The lost, natural man is in darkness concerning the spiritual truth of the Word of God, because – as we have seen – the spiritual truth of the Word of God is spiritually discerned. And praise God, those who have been born again have both the spiritual capacity to discern, understand, spiritual truth, as well as a divine Teacher in the indwelling Holy Spirit to illuminate God’s Word to them.

The success of God’s perfect provision for His children’s illumination of His Truth, is dependent on the individual. God’s Word is without fault in the KJV, and the Holy Spirit will do His teaching and illuminating part, but the child of God MUST respond in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit to do serious, honest, whole hearted study of God’s Word, with the goal of discovering God’s Truth from it.
6. INTERPRETATION

6.1. The Bible is To Be Interpreted Literally

In order for the Church to be able to have God's Truth revealed to them through the Bible, that Truth needs to be plainly revealed. As with Israel who had their faith and responsibility plainly revealed to them by the Lord through Moses. Where they were expected to take what the Lord commanded them literally, and so know without doubt what the Lord required from them. So it is with the Church, our faith has been revealed in a manner that what is written in the New Testament is literally what the Lord requires of us.

There are some passages where the context tells us that what is written is figurative, and so the literal and the figurative passages are easily identified. That which is stated as fact is to be taken as literal fact, and that which is stated as symbolical or figurative is to be taken as such. But the context will always be clear one way or the other.

Example 1 - Israel loved Joseph more than his brothers

*Genesis 37:3* Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

This verse is giving a literal historical record of Israel loving his son Joseph more than all his children. There is no hidden, or allegorical, meaning in this verse. It means just what it says.

Example 2 - The Prophecy of The Virgin Birth Of Christ

*Isaiah 7:14* Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

This verse is a prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ. It literally states that a virgin shall conceive and bear a son called Immanuel (a prophetic name for Christ meaning 'God with us'). It was literally fulfilled ...
Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bid him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Example 3 - Our World Was Created In Six Literal Days

Genesis chapter 1 gives the literal account of the creation of everything. For example the first 6 verses of the Creation record ...

Genesis 1:1-6

1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.
The record of the six days of creation are recorded as the Lord speaking our world into creation in six literal 24 hour days. There is nothing in the record that suggests anything but that creation happened just as Genesis chapter one describes.

When the Lord gave the Ten Commandments, and was describing the 5th commandment, He referred to the creation of the world as in six literal days ...

_**Exodus 20:8-11**_
8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

**Example 4 - The Israelites Crossed The Red Sea On Dry Land**

_**Exodus 14:21-22**_
21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.
22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

The miracles that are recorded in the Bible sound fantastic - perhaps unreal to some. Moses the author, in this case, wrote this record as a real event, because it was a real event. Other authors in the Bible wrote of miracles that they saw, or that the Lord performed through them. Miracles that we can only wonder at, things we have never seen with our eyes. Each of these miracles described are recorded as literal events that literally happened.
6.2. Figurative Passages

Some passages of Scripture are figurative because in the context they are said to be figurative.

For example John's vision of the Lord Jesus in Revelation 1 ...

Revelation 1:9-20

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;
The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

V10/ The apostle John tells us that the Holy Spirit showed him a vision, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, ...”. The Holy Spirit showed John certain things that were not literal. These things represented real things, and we are told - in the passage, or elsewhere, what the things in the vision represented ...

- Seven golden candlesticks (v12-13) - John sees Jesus among the candle sticks
- Seven stars (v16) - John sees seven stars in Jesus' right hand
- A sharp twoedged sword (v16) - John sees the sharp twoedged sword coming out of Jesus' mouth

The first two 'symbols' are explained in this passage and the third is common knowledge from another epistle:

The “seven golden candlesticks” - are explained in v20. “the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches”. And the picture that we are meant to see is that the Lord is with the local churches. He has a personal interest in their well-being.

The “Seven stars” are explained in v20 as well. “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches”. And to further demonstrate the Lord's intimate interest in those local churches, those churches' “angels” are in the Lord's right hand. The “angels” are probably the pastors of the churches. I say ‘probably’ because we are not actually told who the angels are. Unless we understand the angels to be actual angels responsible for, or assigned by the Lord to those local churches. But beyond that we really don’t actually know. Anything beyond that we are guessing, or simply giving our opinion. And if we are honest we will say so.

The “sharp twoedged sword” we know from Hebrews 4:12 ...
Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Here we are told what is meant by a “twoedged sword” in the Bible – the term is given for God's Word. And so in Revelation 1:16 the symbol of a 'sharp two edged sword coming out of the mouth of the Lord Jesus' mouth is appropriately referring to God's words coming out of the mouth of the Lord Jesus.

6.3. Allegorical Interpretation

There are some who strangely (dishonestly?) use the allegorical interpretation of the Word of God. By this approach people give themselves license to give their own private interpretation of what a passage in the Bible means. With this approach there is no, "thus saith the Lord", finality to God’s Truth. i.e. We cannot know with certainty what is being revealed, or taught by the Author. The authority of plain Scripture is removed from the Bible to the ‘interpreter’.

See the following examples (from David Cloud's, 'How to study the Bible' advanced study):

a. For example, the Geneva Bible note at Revelation 9:11 identifies —the Angel of the bottomless pit as —‘Antichrist the Pope, king of hypocrites and Satan’s ambassador’. There is no reason, though, to see the angel of the bottomless pit as anything other than a literal fallen angel in a literal bottomless pit.

b. Harold Camping, founder of Family Christian Radio, came up with the following allegorical interpretation of Revelation 11:7. He says the two witnesses represent the church. The church has been in the great tribulation but has now been killed. Therefore, the church is dead; God is through with churches and pastors and they have no more Scriptural authority.

c. New Agers also interpret the Bible —spiritually. Levi Dowling, in the Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ, says that the man

**Therefore It Cannot Be Interpreted Allegorically**

This approach allows people to give private, personal interpretations of God's Word which opens the door endless variations of belief (And some seriously wild interpretations!). And as we have seen in earlier studies, the Lord in every age - or dispensation - has been very firm about what He required of believers, and that they do precisely what He told them to do. In order for Israel in the past, and the Church today, to be able to go to the recorded revelation of God's will. And be able to find the precise will of God revealed there. That record must be literal, and as we have shown, it is.

Next we will have a look at another very important principle in properly interpreting Scripture, to help us not stray from God’s Truth revealed in the Scriptures. The Lord lead you in your efforts to discover His Truth for yourself!
6.4. The Bible Must Also Be Interpreted Dispensationally

(Based on C.I. Schofield's Dispensational study ...)

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6.4.1. Definition

A *dispensation* is a period of time during which God deals in a particular way with man in respect to sin and to man’s responsibility.

The importance of dispensations is appreciated when one realizes that not all of mankind, before the Church, has had the same responsibility before God. Therefore we must read the Bible understanding which parts were written for those in the past only, with regards to their responsibilities to God, and to be able to study with the understanding of what is applicable to us in the Church age (And what is applicable to me NOW in the latter days.).

The Scriptures divide time into *seven dispensations of unequal length*. ‘Time,’ as used here, is the whole period from the creation of Adam to “a new heaven and a new earth.” (Revelation. 21). Five of these dispensations have been fulfilled; we are living in the sixth; and we have before us the seventh.

6.4.2. The Seven Dispensations

6.4.2.1. The Dispensation Of Innocence

This dispensation extended from the creation of Adam to the expulsion from Eden. The consequences of the failure of man under this first dispensation have been the most disastrous and far reaching of any.

- Man’s state in the beginning - Genesis. 1:26-29 – Made in the image of God – sinless
- His responsibility - Genesis 2:15, 16-17 - To look after the Garden of Eden; Not to eat from the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- His failure - Genesis. 3:6 - Ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of good and evil
- The Judgment - Genesis 3:23-24 - Were driven from the Garden of Eden forever
• The consequences - Genesis 3:14-19; Romans 5:12, 18. - Satan was punished, Women give birth in pain; Men have to work the earth for food; Both man and women would know death; Both, along with their children, are separated from God by sin.

6.4.2.2. The Dispensation Of Conscience

This dispensation extended from the Fall to the Flood. By the Fall, Adam and Eve acquired and transmitted to the race the knowledge of good and evil, or conscience. By this the race came under responsibility to do good and not evil.

• Man’s state in the beginning – Genesis 3:7, 22-23, Rom. 5:12 - Knew good and evil, Separated from God by sin
• His responsibility – Genesis 4:7a - To do well in the eyes of God – i.e. to live by enlightened conscience.
• His failure – Genesis 6:5, 11, 12 - Man fell from obeying God into gross sin
• The Judgment – Genesis 7:11, 12, 23 - All except Noah’s family destroyed in a worldwide flood

6.4.2.3. The Dispensation Of Human Government

Out of the judgment which terminated the Dispensation of Conscience, God saved eight persons. To them He gave the purged earth, with ample power to govern it. This dispensation extended from the end of the Flood to the dispersion at Babel.

• Man’s state in the beginning – Genesis 7:1; Hebrews 11:7 - Noah and his family were righteous
• His responsibility – Genesis 9:1, 6 - To repopulate the earth; The Lord institutes capital punishment for murder; To continue to live by his enlightened conscience.
• His failure – Genesis 11:1-4 - They failed to spread over the earth. They build the Tower of Babel to keep themselves together and to make a memorial to themselves.
• The Judgment – Genesis 11:5-8 - The Lord divided them with different languages

6.4.2.4. The Dispensation Of Promise

Out of the dispersed descendants of the builders of Babel God called one man, Abram, with whom He entered into covenant. He promised Abram:

• A land
• A natural or earthly seed (Human family)
• A spiritual or heavenly seed (Spiritual family)

Other promises were conditional upon faithfulness and obedience. This dispensation extended from the call of Abram to the giving of the Law.

• Man’s state in the beginning – Genesis 12:1-3; 13:14-17; 15:5 - God was guiding Abram; Land given to Abram; Abram’s seed will be equal to the stars
• His responsibility – Genesis 26:2, 3 – Not to go down into Egypt, but to stay in the land that the Lord was about to show Isaac
• His failure – Genesis 47:1 - To stay in the provided land when they went into Egypt
• The Judgment – Exodus 1:8-14 – Became the slaves of the Egyptians

6.4.2.5. The Dispensation Of Law

This dispensation extends from Sinai to Calvary – from the exodus to the cross. God, in grace, visited and delivered His people from Egyptian bondage. The history of Israel in the wilderness and in the land is one long record of flagrant, persistent violation of the law. At last, after multiplied warnings, God closed the testing of man by law in judgment; first Israel, and then Judah, were driven out of the land into dispersion.
During the Dispensation of the Law the entire Old Testament was written. All of that portion from Exodus 19 to the end is legal in its spirit, and has a primary application to the Jews only.

- Man’s state in the beginning – Exodus 19:1-4 - In fellowship with the Lord
- His responsibility – Exodus 19:5, 6; Deuteronomy 4:5-9 - To obey the voice of God and keep His commandments. To be an example to the world of the blessedness of having Jehovah, the one true God, as their God.
- His failure – 2 Kings 17:7-17; 19; Acts 2:22, 23 - Disobeyed God; Worshipped idols; Failed to be a positive example to the nations of the world; Crucified their Messiah.
- The Judgment – 2 Kings 17:1-6, 20; 25:1-11 - The Lord delivered both halves of the nations into captivity

6.4.2.6. The Dispensation Of The Church

In His life and death the Lord Jesus Christ perfectly fulfilled the righteous demands of the law. By “being made a curse for us” He made known to men God’s grace in its fullness. What had once been a type and shadow was now reality.

All of the New Testament was written in the early days of the Dispensation of the Church. The four Gospels, giving the life and teachings of Christ, connect the Dispensation of Law with the Dispensation of the Church and partake of the character of each. Chapters 2-28 of Acts and all of the Epistles belong wholly to the Dispensation of the Church.

The predicted result of this testing of man under grace is judgment upon an unbelieving world and an apostate church.

- Man’s state in the beginning – Matthew 18:11; Romans. 3:19, 23 - Guilty sinners before the Lord
- His responsibility – John 1:11-13; Acts 20:21; Romans 8:14 - Must be repentant towards God, and receive Christ as Saviour; believer’s to yield to the Holy Spirit’s leading
- The Judgment – John 3:16-18; Revelation 20:15 – Eternal damnation; Carnality and lack of blessedness, and certainty, in the spiritual lives of those born again

Those Who Will Not Believe In Christ Will Be Damned To Hell – John 3:16-18; Revelation 20:15 KJV

The Rapture Of The Church

The first revealed event in the closing of this dispensation will be the descent of the Lord from Heaven and the rapture of the true Church. The “dead in Christ” will be raised and, together with believers then living, caught up “to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

6.4.2.7. The Dispensation Of The Kingdom

Following the purifying judgments (the 7 years of tribulation and great tribulation) which will attend the personal return of Christ to the earth, He will reign over restored Israel and over the earth for one thousand years. During this unique period satan will be bound in the bottomless pit for one thousand years. This period is commonly called the Millennium. The seat of Christ’s power will be Jerusalem and the saints of this Dispensation of the Church will reign with Him (Isaiah 2:1-4; Revelation 19:11 - 21; 20:1-6; Isaiah 11 KJV).

- The Lord Jesus Will Reign Personally Over Israel, And Establish World Peace During That Age – Isaiah 2:1-14
- This Reign Will Begin With The Second Coming Of Christ With The Church - Revelation 19:11-21
- Satan Bound For One Thousand Years - Revelation 20:1-6
- The Battle Of Gog And Magog, And The Great White Throne Judgment - Revelation 20:7-15
6.4.3. Conclusion

The importance of dispensations is hopefully clear. Anyone who does not recognize the dispensational divisions in Scripture will surely go astray from the mind of God. Anyone who does not recognize that not all peoples of all times have the same responsibility to the Lord, nor do we all have the same promises from the Lord. Failure to divide the Scriptures according man’s responsibility and the promises made to him in the history of our world, will cause such people to seek to fulfill responsibilities not meant for them. And expect the Lord to fulfill promises not made to them. This error can only cause confusion, disappointment and ultimately disillusionment in the Christian Faith, and the Lord Himself. Therefore spiritual disaster!

6.5. Interpretation Conclusion

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).

God has promised to guide His people into all truth. This guidance is based upon, and relative to the Scriptures that He has inspired: Never apart from them! “Truth” is defined in the next chapter as the Word of God.

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” (John 17:17).
7. THE SCRIPTURES: THE ONLY SOURCE FOR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND PRACTICE

The Scriptures, the Word of God, is the means that the Lord has used to reveal Himself, and His commands to His children. This was the case with Israel, and it has been the case with the Church. And according to the Word of God, it is the only source where God’s children will find the Faith that the LORD has given, and that He acknowledges by His blessing and His Personal involvement.

7.1. Israel

7.1.1. The Law Given By The LORD Through Moses

Israel were given the Law by the Lord through Moses. And they were commanded to keep the whole of the Law. That they were not to keep only part of it, but to keep the whole Law without compromise. They were told that they were not to add to the Law, nor were they to take anything away from it. The Law was the only source for instruction on the God given Faith for Israel before the Church, the body of Christ.

In Exodus 20 the LORD gave Moses the Ten Commandments which formed the foundation of the Faith of the Israeli people under God. In Exodus 21-23 the LORD gave Moses further commands, “judgments”, for the children of Israel which governed their lives as His children. Exodus 24:4, Moses recorded, “all the words of the LORD”, in what was called the, “book of the covenant”, (Exodus 24:4, 7).

_Exodus 24:3-4_

3 And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.

4 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.
Exodus 24:7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.

In Exodus 25 the LORD starts to gives Moses His instructions for their worship of Him. In Exodus 25-27 the LORD gives instruction for the building of the tabernacle. Which represented the LORD’s presence with Israel, and where they would do animal, blood sacrifices to temporarily cover their sins.

In Exodus 28-29 the LORD gives instructions regarding the priest’s office. Exodus 30 the LORD gives the instructions on how to make an altar to burn incense upon. And then instructions of how an offering was to be carried out.

And so it is abundantly clear that for the children of Israel, that their lives with the LORD were governed by the Laws the LORD gave them through Moses. Laws that were record in the then termed, “book of the covenant” (Exodus 24:4).

7.1.2. Israel Commanded To Keep The Law

Israel were commanded to keep the LORD’s Law without ANY compromise, or change whatsoever...

Deuteronomy 4:1-2

1 Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

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.

Here, not adding to God’s Word, nor diminishing - taking away, from God’s Word was allowed. And such keeping precisely to God’s Word was regarded as ‘keeping the commandments of the LORD’. Any less would not be ‘keeping the commandments of the LORD’.
Deuteronomy 4:40 *Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments*, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

The faithful keeping of God’s commands, His Word, would ensure that they HAD life with the LORD. See Deuteronomy 28:1-14 KJV for Moses’ description of the blessed life of Israel if they lived in obedience to the LORD’s revealed, and recorded, Word.

7.1.3. Israel Warned About Not Keeping God’s Word

*Deuteronomy 28:14-15*

14 And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Here Israel are warned of the consequences of turning from God’s Word in the Law. Read the whole of Deuteronomy 28:14-68 for the LORD’s fearful warning of their turning from Him, by turning from His given Law, in order to appreciate how serious the LORD was about Israel keeping His written commands.

7.2. The Church

7.2.1. The Lord’s Commands For The Church - Given By The Holy Spirit Through The Apostles

What a spiritually dramatic time the early Church was! The long awaited Messiah had come, died on the Cross, and went back to Glory! The Lord Jesus sent the promised Holy Spirit to guide His disciples, now His apostles, into all Truth for His Church (see John 16:13, Acts 2, see Acts 2:42 KJV especially in the context of Acts 2 of the giving of the Holy Spirit.). His Church, the new dispensation – the
new way – in the dealings of God with man. No longer was the Lord dealing with a nation, separated from the rest of the world, as His example of a nation whose God was Jehovah. Now the Lord was actively reaching out to the world of the lost through His Church. His Church that would eventually be made up of local churches scattered among the nations of the world. And each local church, in a smaller sense than Israel, being separate from the wicked practices of the nations that they were living within. Tasked with reaching out to the world starting from their immediate locality. And then within their fellowship of believers, worshipping the Lord together, and being built up in their faith, and daily lives, with their Father.

7.2.2. The Church Kept The Apostles’ Doctrine

The Holy Spirit was true to His commission to guide the Church into all of God’s Truth of course (John 16:13 KJV). And we see that the early Church, already in Acts 2, is said to be practicing, living, the faith taught them by the apostles, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42). These first believers in Christ were of the nation of Israel, who were in Jerusalem from all over the world, for the day of Pentecost. Now, they didn’t get together to practice their Jewish Faith. No, they learnt, and practiced the doctrines, the teachings, of the apostles that the Holy Spirit had given them according to the promise of Christ (John 16:13 KJV).

Our New Testament, from the book of Acts through to Revelation, are the written records of the apostles’ doctrine that the Holy Spirit led them to write down. To write down as they shared the doctrine that the Holy Spirit had taught them, and led them to share with individuals and local churches.

2 Peter 3:14-16

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.
15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;
16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

The apostle Peter writing to the believers scattered around the world, writes of the epistles of Paul being Scripture. He writes of Paul’s writings as containing some things that are hard to understand. Things that the spiritually immature, “they that are unlearned and unstable”, twist to their own spiritual harm. This they do with the Scriptures that Paul writes as they do “other Scriptures”. Paul’s letters, and the letters of the other apostles that are in our Bibles, are here referred to as Scripture – God’s Word! Just as the Old Testament books, writings, are known to be Scripture – God’s Word.

7.2.3. Turning From The Apostle’s Doctrines Rebuked

As we have seen, the, “apostles’ doctrine”, written for the instruction and edification of the Church, were faithfully kept by the Church. We expectedly also see those not keeping to the apostles’ doctrine rebuked.


galatians 1:6-9
6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:
7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
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.
9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

There were those who were already turning to another gospel from what they were taught by the apostles! And Paul is clear in his rebuke of those who turn from the, “apostle’s doctrine”, they are to be considered, “accursed”! And Paul doesn’t just leave this statement as a broad statement, but specifies that even the apostles, or an angel from Heaven, may not bring any other gospel! This is a very clear,
definitive statement! What the Holy Spirit had given the early church was ALL doctrine, ALL TRUTH for the entire church age! None would EVER be allowed to change these truths!

2 Corinthians 11:3-4
3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

This time Paul is writing to warn the Corinthian local church of turning from the Faith that they were taught by him. Turning here we are given insight into as the result of following, receiving, “another spirit”!

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Paul writing to Timothy warns of the last days – today. When people would be departing from the faith. Paul is writing from the perspective of the faith that was given to him and the other apostles. The faith that they shared in writing with the early church. And that the Lord through His Holy Spirit had compiled into the canon of our Bibles as we have them today. We MUST check our faith with what is taught in the Scriptures. And we cannot simply go with what WE understand as we read and study God’s Word. We have to earnestly look to the Lord to guide us into the Truth of what is there. That the Lord teach us THE truths which He intended to communicate, when He led the apostles to record them in writing, is vital! We MUST get to the actual truth of our Faith that the Lord has given His Word to communicate to us!

And so, just as Israel had their Faith recorded in God’s Word. And the children of Israel HAD to turn to God’s Word, the Old Testament, to learn what it was. So the Church today have the whole Bible to teach us about the Lord, and the New Testament only to teach us the
Christian Faith. There is NO further revelation of ‘new truth’ as many are falsely claiming in these last days! The Bible is it! Don’t add to it, and don’t take away anything from it! (See Revelation 22:18-19 KJV, these words, at the end of the Bible, refer to the whole book.) The Lord bless and guide you into His Truth in this vital matter.

7.3. The Canon Of Scripture

(This following article is chapter 17 from Jack Moorman’s book, ‘Missing In Modern Bibles.’)

God’s people (at least a number of them) would be guided into all truth concerning the Scriptures to the extent that the Scriptures would be completely preserved.

Through the priesthood of believers, God guided His people into all truth as to the Canon of Scripture [What made up the Bible.]. For example they knew that 2 Peter was to be placed in the Canon whereas the so-called Epistle of Barnabas and Gospel of Thomas were rejected. He guided them into all truth as to the Text of Scripture. They knew that the Text emanating from Antioch was true, but that from Alexandria was corrupt. They multiplied copies of the former and ignored the latter. He guided them into all truth as to the relatively few variations in the Traditional Text manuscripts, thus providing a sound and refined base when the first printed editions of the Received Text appeared, and when the great Reformation Bibles of Europe began to be translated.

From the time of the inspiration of God’s Words to the time of their reception into the great Reformation Bibles and most notably the King James Version, a sufficient number of God’s people have been guided into all truth to enable the complete preservation these Words. God used people; believers, for this process.

Since that time, guidance based on the Scriptures continues as to the guarding of God’s Words. Every period of history has had its defenders who stood their post by God’s once delivered Words (Jude 3). Back in Burgon’s day when the Westcott and Hort juggernaut
began to rumble across Europe there were very few. Today there are more. But there will always be a sufficient number, whether in the manuscript period, the early printing time, or these last days, to guard God’s Words.

We urge you to take your stand for every word in the Text and the Translation of the Authorised Version. All indications point to the KJV as the Bible God would have His people use in these last days before the Second Coming of Christ. God has preserved in the Hebrew and Greek Words underlying the King James Version His original work of inspiration. Upon investigation, the AV translation of these Words will be shown to display their fullest expression available in our language. We do not deny that here and there they may need to be explained, but when researched a given word will be shown to be fuller than the modern replacements, and with a much longer and more consistent history in our language. Therefore, if necessary: Explain it, but do not change it!

_The flower has not faded! The Sword is as sharp as in the day it was first whetted!_

(Isaiah 40:8; Hebrews 4:12 KJV).

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