

Sermon Outlines

The Completeness Of The Scriptures

Introduction

Peter in His second epistle relates an experience which was magnificent and had he been basing his beliefs on experience, it would have been most impossible to get anything better. We all, to some extent, live and assess our spiritual life by experiences, something Peter would strongly oppose, for experience can be very subjective. In refuting such an attitude, Peter, as it were, tells the saints, lets talk about experience: "I was with Him on the Holy Mount when there came a Voice from the excellent glory", I was there, I heard it, I saw the glory of His transfiguration" and it was a magnificent experience. HOWEVER, we have something more secure, the Word of prophecy, that is, the Word of God (2 Pet. 1:19). For years I heard preachers tell the audience that they must have a time when, a manner how, and a place where they got saved. That is depending on experience! Let me state clearly, the assurance of salvation is:

- a) NOT dependent on a time when, etc., but on the Word of God.
- b) NOT dependent on speaking in tongues or holy laughter, etc., but on the Word of God.
- c) NOT being able to tell a story about when something happened.

The experiences which can give the assurance of salvation will come AFTER salvation when the individual finds an automatic change in their lives, not by self efforts, but of that which is the new life within. Some things will take longer and other things God never gives the power over, just as there were ancient powers (nations, Jud. 1:21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33), Israel never got the victory over. This is vital for it forces the individual to learn total dependence on God.

The Completeness Of The Scriptures

- 1) The completeness of the Scriptures is based on four great foundation stones:
 - a) The sufficiency of the Scriptures
 - b) The integrity of the Scriptures
 - c) The clarity of the Scriptures
 - d) The authority of the Scriptures.
- 2) When this is seen and believed then:
 - a) Every other "holy book" is a satanic falsehood.
 - b) It is irrelevant which any denomination or cult claims, the book is a satanic manuscript.
 - c) The scriptures from Gen. 1:1 to Rev. 22:21 alone can claim to be divinely inspired.
 - d) They are not a scientific, astronomical, medical manual, but when they make scientific statements, they will always be correct.
- 3) There can be little doubt but that the sufficiency and finality of the scriptures are major contentious issues, especially their sufficiency. Consideration will be given to this matter.
 - a) The first observation is that which God has declared about the scriptures. In revealing Himself as the God who is light, holy and true, then His statements concerning them must also be accepted as true. If it could be shown that there is a mistake in them then the entire credibility of them would be nullified, but they have been shown, in every case, prophetically, scientifically, chronologically, and biographically to be perfectly exact and without a flaw.
 - b) The Holy Spirit bore Paul along when He, the Spirit, caused him to write, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). Several truths are recorded in this verse:
 - i) The word "inspiration" is translated from the Greek word "theopneustos" and its literal meaning is "God breathed". The scriptures ARE NOT the writings of "only men", they are the result of God working through men and investing the words with His own character, accuracy, and power. The Holy Spirit then informs us that they were given for a fourfold reason:
 1. For teaching, which means to give instruction.

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- (a) They provide all that is needed for doctrine, and because it is apostolic doctrine, any deviation, rationale, or tradition teaching which in any degree varies from them, is wrong.
- 2. For correction, which means to give guidance and direction. If we read with great carefulness all the recorded words of the Lord, an interesting observation will be made. Neither Paul nor any of the apostles ever used tradition to correct error. They always used the scriptures. Therefore, the scriptures alone are what is needed to correct any error of doctrine or practice. Paul will be guided to speak about “leaven” in two of the epistles. The contexts are different. In 1 Corinthians it is the wrong behavior in view, and in Galatians it is wrong teaching. In neither case does he appeal to human thinking, he will use natural illustrations (1 Cor.) but everything including salvation is based on the scriptures. They alone are able to give correction and if an individual argues against them, they are blatantly standing against God.
- 3. For reproof, which means to give the guidelines in alerting the conscience of that which is being done is error. The following are some scriptures which show the scriptures being used in all three ways, doctrinally, reproofing, and correcting.
 - (a) “These 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” (Acts 17:11).
 - (b) “And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ” (Acts 17:2-3).
 - (c) “For if Abraham was justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Rom. 4:2-3).
- 4) The following table will further show evidence of these truths.

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Their	Reference	The Development
Sufficiency	2 Tim. 3:16	<p><u>Sufficient for:</u></p> <p>1) Every situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Home life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Fathers (Eph. 6:4) ii) Husbands (Eph. 5:25-33) iii) Wives (Eph. 5:22-24) iv) Unmarried ladies (1 Cor. 7:8, 11, 34) v) Widows (1 Tim. 5:5) vi) Young men (Titus 2:6; 1 Jn. 2:13, 14) vii) Children (Eph. 6:1-3) b) Social life (1 Cor. 10:23-24, 31-33) c) Work life (Eph. 6:5-8) d) Masters / Employers (Eph. 6:9), e) Church life (1 Cor. 1:1-16) f) Spiritual life (Rom. 12:1) <p>2) An exposure of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Satan by his titles and works (Devil, Tempter, Satan) (Matt 4:1-10; Jn. 8:44) b) Sin (1 Jn. 3:4) c) Self (Rom. 3:10-18) d) The future relative to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Jew, multiple passages (Zech.) ii) Gentiles (Lk. 21:24) iii) Church (1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:14-17) iv) Political world (Rev. 13:1-10) v) Military world (Rev. 19:17-21) vi) Religious world (Rev. 17:1-18) vii) The earth itself (Heb. 1:10-11) <p>3) The sinful error of all additions or ignoring of the scriptures or its teachings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) False property preachers b) Book of Mormon c) Catholic ritual d) Brethren conformities to man made rules
Integrity	Dan. 10:21	<p>They are the Scripture of truth because they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Were given by the God of truth (Deut. 32:4) b) Were given by the Spirit of truth (Jn. 14:17) c) Were about Christ who is the truth (Jn. 14:6)
Clarity	Isa. 35:8	2 Cor 3:12 in the preaching of the gospel
Authority		<p>Thus saith the Lord (413 occurrences) The Lord spake/said (153 occurrences)</p>

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**