



Conducted by
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“Now that many so-called ‘Christian’ organisations and people seem to be doubting the truth of the Bible, do you think that this could have an adverse effect on some members of the Church of Christ?”

I feel sure that it **could** have, but I am equally sure that it **shouldn’t** have. There will always be those who seemed to be impressed with the scholastic ability of some Bishop, priest, or other Biblical scholar, and will say to themselves, “Well, he is a Greek or Latin scholar, surely he must know what he’s talking about.” We know from experience, however, that in any sphere of thought or action there are many who have **seemed** to be right, but at the end of the day they have been proved to be entirely wrong. Therefore, we must not place our faith in what **men think about** God, but we must have a consistent faith in God, being assured that He always seeks our good, and that He, according to His revelation, will never lead us astray, Let’s see if we can reinforce this.

To put it into the language which perhaps modern man will understand better, I see Jesus as the Chief Executive of God’s Will. Before He left the earth to ascend into Heaven He made it plain to His Apostles that there were many things which they had still had to be taught, **“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now”** (John 16:12). He made a promise to them, however, that after He had gone that they **would** be taught, **“Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth”** (v13). He even catered for their lack of memory, **“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, 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”** (John 14:26). Luke also records the words of Jesus to His Disciples, later to be His Apostles, **“And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Spirit shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to**

say.” (Luke 12:11,12). So God’s Will was revealed by himself in Christ, confirmed by the Holy Spirit, taught to and preached by the Apostles, and given unto the custody of those who believed and obeyed it, i.e., the Church which was born on the Day of Pentecost. That Church is the true Church, the Church of Christ, the executive arm of the Christ in the world today. It is God-given, Christ-centred, and Apostolic. With that sort of pedigree, there can be no room for doubt of the revelations of God, the Bible.

THE EXECUTIVE ARM

This, as I have indicated, is the Church. If the Church fails, then the Message fails. But as with the Apostles, the Church also has the help of the Holy Spirit, not only to assist in the personal lives of the saints, but also to guide the Church in the interpretation of the revelation. Not to give new revelation, because the revelation is complete, but to guide us in our understanding of God’s Will. The Church has a special responsibility for the truth, as Paul made clear when he wrote to Timothy, **“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how to behave thyself in the house of God which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”** (1 Tim. 3:15). Here we have the idea of a column (pillar), such as the Greeks used in their temples, holding up a building or structure; the ‘ground’ is the foundation on which the structure stands. The point being made is clear: God expects the Church to support and maintain the truth. What is that truth? Well, Christ is the foundation on which the Church is built, and He said of Himself, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man can come to the Father except by me”** So we are talking about the revealed truth from God concerning the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, Paul puts the issue on a more personal level. Timothy is exhorted to **“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life”** (1 Tim. 6:12). Later in the same chapter Paul writes, **“O Timothy keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called”** (v20). While it is true that Paul intended Timothy to ‘guard the deposit’, i.e., as preacher and evangelist, it is equally true, by extension, that all Christians, including Timothy, should be included in his directive to **“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Spirit which dwelleth in us”** (2 Tim. 1:13,14). That ‘good deposit’ was given to Timothy, and I am sure I am not stretching a point when I say “and unto us also.” Timothy was warned against the ‘pseudo-knowledge’ (science falsely so called), a probable reference to gnosticism. The Church has spent too much time on ‘issues’ and not enough on presenting Christ to the world.

THE INERRANCY OF THE SCRIPTURES

If we present the Bible, as we undoubtedly should, as the revealed Will of God for mankind, then we must be absolutely sure that we ourselves believe it to be inerrant. After hearing some Christians talk, I’m not altogether sure that this is the case. A salesman will always achieve his best results when he is convinced that the claims for the product he is selling are absolutely true. We in the Church have set ourselves up as ‘purveyors’ of the truth concerning God and His Christ: are we totally convinced?

There is one Person who was always convinced of what He said; the Lord Christ Himself. What gave Him the conviction? Well, you may say, because He was the Son of God, but that is not the only way He put it to the people of His day with whom He had to contend. The Sadducees came to Him on one occasion trying to trap Him concerning the resurrection. There were seven brothers, the first of whom married, but who died before any children were born. According to Mosaic Law, the brother of the dead man should marry the wife in order to raise up seed unto his dead brother. The same thing happened with the other six. The question posed by the Sadducees

was, **“Whose wife would she be in the resurrection, for they all had her?”** **“Got Him”** they must have thought to themselves.

The reply of Jesus nonplussed the Sadducees, and gives us a great degree of satisfaction when we approach the Word. Jesus said to them, **“Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God”** (Matt. 22:23-33). Implicit in this statement is the fact that if they had known the scriptures, they would **not have erred**. It seems to me that Jesus here is making a claim for the inerrancy of the Scriptures. Now obviously, the Scriptures He referred to were the Old Testament Scriptures, but could there be anything less regarding the New Testament? There is an interesting confrontation recorded by John. The Jews were saying that Jesus blasphemed by saying that He was the Son of God. Jesus answered them, **“Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world. Thou blasphemest; because I said I am the Son of God?”** Did not Jesus rebuke the two on the Emmaus road when He said, **“O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and (then) to enter into His glory”** (Luke 24:25,26). If they had known the Scriptures, they should have known what would happen. The very fact that Jesus could say **“these things”** were foretold in Scripture before they actually **did** happen, proves to me anyway, that the Scriptures He referred to were accurate and unerring. The culmination of all this to my mind is to be found in 2 Pet. 3:16 where Peter brackets the Epistles of Paul with the **‘other scriptures’**, seemingly suggesting that Paul’s New Testament letters had been twisted by his detractors just as the Old Testament Scriptures had been twisted. As Paul asserted to Timothy, **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”**, (2 Tim. 3:16,17). That is why we can rely on the Scriptures, both Old and New. They are Spirit-given, and therefore God-given.

You will have noticed, however, that the Jewish leaders, and the two on the Emmaus road, were rebuked by Jesus for **not knowing** the Scriptures. For the Christian, especially, it will be futile to plead ignorance of the Bible when we stand at the bar of judgement. We shall be indicted on two counts: not knowing the revelation for ourselves, and consequently not being able to pass it on to others. Dear brother, sister, take your Bible out of its place of repose. Read it and study it. Within its pages you will find history, high drama, the greatest love stories you have ever read, but most important, you will find Salvation and the Way of Life. God has given it into the keeping of those who love Him, so that its Message can be blazoned across the world for the benefit of all mankind. That being so, you can rely upon it, irrespective of what the cynics say.

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