

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 2

Lesson 5: The Authority of the Bible

1Thessalonians 2:13

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If you are to believe in the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, you must have a Book that is absolutely true and without error. The authority of the inerrant Scriptures will be discussed in this study.

- The doctrine of Divine Preservation ensures us that God is able to perfectly preserve His words. We can confidently say to God, “**thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**” (Psalm 138:2).
- Supposed “*errors*” are based on varying opinions, which result in a disagreement on which verses are in error and which ones are not.
- Modern bible corruptions (NIV, ASV, RSV, Living, New World, etc.) cast doubt upon God’s word because they all differ (from the KJV and from each other).
 - This forces Christians to rely on Greek/Hebrew scholars as their authority instead of trusting the word of God because they don’t have a reliable copy.
- Satan desires that people doubt the words of God. “**Yea, hath God said?**” (Gen. 3:1).
- A God who is not able to perfectly preserve His words cannot be trusted to save our soul and keep us.
- If you don’t trust the authenticity of the bible, you won’t believe it. When you don’t believe it, it will not affect the way you live. When you believe what God said in His word, it will affect the way you live.
 - *Knowledge* of the bible won’t affect your life if you don’t believe the bible.

READ 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

The believers in Thessalonica were willing to lay down their life and suffer persecution because they believed the bible. If they didn’t, they could have simply denied Christ and avoided persecution.

There is something very different about the bible that moves people and nations to try and get rid of it along with the people who believe it. All attempts to rid the world of the Holy Bible will fail because God is still preserving it.

THE WORD OF GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE NEW BIRTH/INCORRUPTIBLE LIFE (1 Peter 1:23)

“**Being born again**” You must put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ to be born again. Many religions and religious books speak of a Jesus, but it isn’t the true Jesus.

“**...not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of god...**” Only the word of God reveals the true Jesus Christ in whom you must believe.

- “**Corruptible seed**” was used for your first birth.
- You must be born again by the incorruptible seed, which is the word of God. (Luke 8:11).
 - You can’t receive the new birth via corruptible seed. If the bible has been corrupted, you can’t be born again. God must preserve His word.
- The word of God is eternal. It “**liveth and abideth forever.**” The incorruptible, eternal word of God is what you need to receive *eternal* life.

THE WORD OF GOD MAKES YOU CLEAN (John 15:3)

“**Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**”

THE WORD OF GOD KEEPS YOU CLEAN (John 17:17)

“**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**” Sanctification and holiness come from God’s word.

- You will not get victory over your sins and habits if you don’t believe what the bible says about it.

WHAT GOD'S WORD WILL DO FOR YOU (Psalm 19:7-11)

- It will convert your soul (vs 7). It will turn you around from the ways of sin if you believe it.
 - The Law is perfect; we are not perfect. The Law will reveal that to us (Rom. 7:12-14).
- It will make wise the simple (vs 7).
- It will rejoice the heart (vs 8). If you're not rejoicing, it's because you don't believe God's word.
- It will enlighten your eyes (vs 8) so you can see the right way.
- It will give you the warnings you need (vs 11).
- If you keep them, "there is great reward" (vs 11).

GOD'S WORD WILL SURVIVE THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS WORLD (Matthew 24:35, 2 Peter 3:10)

THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (2 Peter 1:20-21)

- When God's holy men were moved by the Holy Ghost, they spoke God's words. When they spoke God's words, scribes converted their inspired spoken words into holy scriptures (written words).
 - The men God used to produce His book were qualified by their faith, not by their education, training, background, philosophy, experiences, etc.
 - The 40+ men who penned God's words had very different backgrounds. That doesn't matter because God is the author.

Inspiration: A supernatural, divine influence on the prophets, apostles, or sacred writers by which they were qualified to communicate moral or religious truths with authority. A miraculous influence, which qualifies men to receive and communicate divine truth.

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 (present tense), not "*was given*" (past tense).
 - Then inspiration is not limited to the lost original manuscripts. We have God's inspired words today.
 - The inspiration applies to "**All scripture**," not all the writers. We still have the scriptures. We no longer have access to the writers.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 **"from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures."**

- Timothy didn't have the original manuscripts, but he had the holy scriptures because God kept them.
- If God couldn't keep His words, why would you believe He could keep your soul?

Psalms 12:6-7 **"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."**

- God's words are pure, refined, and preserved by Him (not by man) forever.

2 Corinthians 11:3 **"As the serpent beguiled Eve,"** we also can be enticed to doubt God's words.

- God has given us His word in the English language so we may know what we need to know.
- If anyone tries to tell you there is something lacking in your bible, they are being satanic.
- Trust that you have God's very words, and it will change your life.