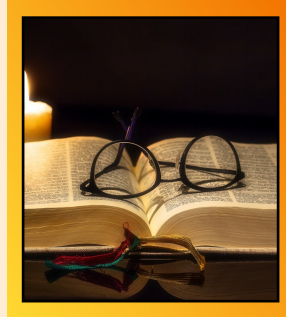




CONVERSATIONS IN BIBLE FUNDAMENTALS

“And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip . . . saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.” John 12: 20, 21



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

§ Related Bible Passages:

John 1:1, 2, 14 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 5:39 - “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me”

Isaiah 8: 19, 20 - “When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God’s instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.”

§ Today’s Conversation: Pastor John Nixon “How Do We Know We Can Trust the Bible?”

§ The framework for understanding the Bible:

The Old Testament (OT) is the forward look toward the promises of God. The New Testament (NT) is the realization of the promises of the OT.

1) Peter says they (the Apostles) were eye witnesses to all that is recorded about Jesus: *“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. 2 Peter 1: 16 - 18*

2) Peter affirms the prophetic nature of what they saw. Their confidence in the truth of the Scriptures is increased because it is consistent with, and confirmed by the prophecies: *“We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” 2 Peter 1: 19*

3) Peter asserts that no prophecy of Scripture comes from man but is produced by the will of God: *“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1: 20, 21*

2 Timothy 3: 16, 17 - "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

§ In Conclusion:

- Today's pluralistic society places all beliefs on equal value. They say no belief system is of less value or importance. Christ does not say this. He states, "No one comes to the Father but by Me." Christ does not affirm other religions.

§ Next Week's Conversation Question:

- What Scriptural evidence confirms Jesus as the Messiah?
- Guest Presenter: Pastor Robert Kennedy

How Do We Know We Can Trust the Bible? (cont'd)

§ The characteristics of the Bible:

- *Incarnational - John 1: 1; 5:39:* The Divine and human are joined. Jesus, the Word of God became human. The Bible is therefore the Word of God in print - God incarnate.
 - *Unique - Isaiah 8: 20:* It cannot be judged by any other book.
 - *Authoritative - 2 Timothy 3:17:* The Bible alone contains all that is necessary for salvation.
 - *Self-affirming - Isaiah 28: 10:* It explains itself.
- Understanding of a text occurs by comparing Scripture with Scripture. The Word is more certain because it cannot be changed by anything that will happen or has happened.

§ We can only trust the Bible by Faith

To trust the Bible we must first read it to determine if it is worthwhile. Faith is the starting point. Believe that God exists then moving from that point to accept His word. Faith is the foundation of everyday life. Faith is more than believing- it is knowing. Faith is the only way to know God. *Hebrew 11: 1, 2, 6. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. . . . And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

Faith is therefore superior to knowledge. The only way to know God is by Faith. Where do we put our faith? Science is material and passing - faith is spiritual and eternal.

§ How do we generate interest in reading the Bible?

- *Read translations (not paraphrases) that have modern language.*
- *Start from young in home and in school and so develop the habit*
- *Share personal experiences with our children and acquaintances*
- *Dramatize Bible stories*
- *Use modern media to present Bible stories, etc.*
- *Begin with areas of interest and familiarity*
- *Do not inject personal interpretations but allow the Bible to interpret itself*
- *The Bible is a growth Book. As we study it, our understanding will yield way to deeper interpretations.*