

Laying the Foundation – Part II

The Authority and Power of God's Word

Part One we focused on the Foundation of Jesus Christ and we ended with a connection between Jesus and the Word of God. In this section, Part Two, we will look more closely at the Authority and Power of the Word of God as it relates to the sure foundation of Christ.

Authority of Scripture

The root word is author. Hence, it is the author who gives authority to his work. So, when we speak of the authority of scripture, we need to look at the author.

II Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

God breathed – word for breath is also the word for Spirit.

Profitable for

1. Teaching – showing what is right
2. Reproof – showing what is wrong
3. Correction – showing how to make what is wrong right again
4. Training in Righteousness – showing how to live rightly
5. Result – we are complete and equipped for every good work

Interpretation of Scripture

There is only one authorized interpreter of Holy Scripture – the author. If you want to know what a passage means you need to consult the author who is the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit is able to give the proper interpretation of the text because He wrote it and knows what it means.

2 Peter 1:20-21

“knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Scripture is not merely a work of man, but a divinely inspired through the Holy Spirit.

The Attitude of Jesus Toward the Bible – He is our pattern/example

- John 10:35 – the scriptures can not be broken
- The Word of God proceeds from heaven, not from man

How Jesus Used Scripture

Matthew 4 – Jesus in the wilderness tempted 3 time by Satan

- Satan uses Doubt - if you are the Son of God – at his baptism God said He was.
- Jesus, “It is written” – Jesus quoted scripture with authority – all passages are from the OT
- Jesus defeated Satan with scripture – Satan has no answer for what is written
- Satan could only change the subject; he could not challenge or deny the Word of God

Lessons from the Garden – Eve (Genesis 3)

1. Hath God said? – Doubt
2. You will not die – Disbelief/Deny
3. You will be like God – Disobey
4. Consequence – spiritual death, then physical death

James 1:13-15

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Jesus’ Affirmation of the Authority of Scripture

Matthew 5:17-18

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

Matthew 22:31-32

“And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.”

What was written by Moses 14 centuries earlier was a living and authoritative word for the Sadducees of His day

The Life of Jesus Fulfilled Scriptures

- Birth
- Life and ministry
- Death
- Resurrection –

Examples:

1. Seed of the woman
2. Descendant of Abraham
3. Tribe of Judah
4. Descendent of David
5. Born in Bethlehem
6. Born of a virgin
7. Flight to Egypt
8. Speak in parables
9. Rejected by His own people
10. Triumphal Entry (on a donkey)
11. Betrayed by a close friend (Judas)
12. For 30 pieces of silver
13. Crucified with two thieves
14. Pierced in his hands, feet and side
15. Bones not broken
16. Buried in a rich man's tomb
17. To be resurrected (Psalm 16:10; 49:5)

And there are many more!

The New Testament and Scripture

John 14:25-26

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

- Holy Spirit will teach you all things – Jesus did not teach them all things while on earth
- Holy Spirit will help you remember all I have taught you – not dependent on human memory.

The biggest thing that was revealed after the Holy Spirit came was _____.
(hint Acts 10 and Acts 15; think Gentiles)

John 16:12-14

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

1. Guide us into all truth
2. Speaks what he hears
3. Reveals things to come
4. Glorifies Jesus

The Nature of Scripture

Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

1. Living
2. Powerful
3. Pierces the soul (flesh) from the Spirit
4. Discerns our thoughts and the motivations of our hearts

I Corinthians 2:14

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

Also note 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (Christ the Wisdom and Power of God)

“I remember hearing the Episcopal bishop of Atlanta explaining to his diocese why he voted to affirm the consecration of a bishop who had divorced his wife and was partnered with another man: ‘I followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit.’ Apparently he had rejected the Anglican tradition’s insistence that the Holy Spirit does not contradict Scripture.”¹ ~*Archbishop Foley Beach*

1 Thessalonians 2:13

“And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.”

- Not the word of man, but the word of God

2 Peter 1:3-4

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

God’s promises (scripture) has provided

1. All things pertaining to life and godliness
2. We are partakers of the divine nature
3. We have escaped the corruption of the world and sinful desire

¹ Bishop Neil Alexander to the Diocese of Atlanta conservative clergy gathering, September 2003. Foley Beach, “Neo-pagan Anglicanism”, in *The Future of Orthodox Anglicanism*, ed. Gerald R. McDermott (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020), p. 92

The Effect of God's Word in our Lives

1. Faith (Romans 10:17)
2. New Birth (I Peter 1:22-23; James 1:18)
3. Nourishment (1 Peter 2:2, Milk; Matt 4, Bread, Heb 5:12, Meat)
4. Illumination (Psalm 119:130) also revelation not education
5. Physical Healing (Psalm 107:17-20, saves, heals, delivers; Prov 4:20-22)
6. Victory of Satan (Ps 119:9,11; Romans 6:14)
7. Cleaning and Purity (Ephesians 5:25-27)
8. Spiritual Mirror (James 1:2)

Article VI of the Anglican 39 Articles of Religion (1571):²

OF THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES FOR SALVATION

“Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation...”

Article VI of the Anglican 39 Articles of Religion (1571): OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

“The Old Testament is not contrary to the New: for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to Mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and Man, being both God and Man...”

² *Book of Common Prayer 2019*, “Documentary Foundations”