

## THE BIBLE

### Part 1 of 6

Paul said to Timothy, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). No material can take the place of the Bible, no matter how good this material may be. And I am fully persuaded that if this study draws you to a personal study of the Sacred Scriptures, it has served its purpose well.

I have tried to keep the material simple and understandable. The language is simple and non-technical in most cases. But there must be at times technical terms used in a writing of this nature. When this is the case, definition and explanation will be given. Also, we will not try and wade through all the debates and difficulties that a study of this nature presents. But we will at this time only discuss those subjects of greater importance.

I feel that every student of Scripture must have a deep appreciation for the Bible. It is God’s self-revelation to man, every word is from Him. Paul said, “All scripture is given by inspiration (God-breathed) of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect (complete), throughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The writer of Hebrews said, “For the word of God is quick (living), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). Such a priceless treasure deserves our diligent study.

There are many things a church can do and many priorities it can uphold, but it is time that we understand: only God’s Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit transforms lives. Therefore, the church must have a strong commitment to biblical authority and the ministry of God’s Word. We must faithfully teach, preach, exalt, and live God’s Word. It must be the focal point of everything we do. The depth of our holiness is directly proportional to our knowledge of God’s Word.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to apply biblical principles to our lives, but we must first study God’s Word and saturate our minds with its truth. We can’t function on principles we do not understand. The driving force behind any ministry has always been, and will always be, an insatiable desire to know what God’s Word means and to impart that knowledge to others. Paul said to Timothy, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

A proper understanding of any area of theology depends upon our study and understanding of God’s Word. If matters of theology are not revealed to us through Scripture it only leaves us with human opinions, which results in hopelessness.

Some would have us believe that the Bible has historical, moral and literary errors, and to make such a charge as this makes me wonder where some of these professors came from. It is true that the Bible contains some statements that in our present state of knowledge we are not able to fully understand. But, because we do not understand all of Scripture as we would like, it is not good

Hermeneutics to say that there is error. Error is error no matter how you look at it. But we cannot say that the Bible has errors simply because we do not understand all of its teachings. Our knowledge of the languages of the Scripture is by no means perfect; a number of words and idioms (expressions that have special meaning) which only occur a few times in Scripture. Scholars are not in full agreement as to their exact meaning. But the problem is not with Scripture, the problem rests with scholars and their limited understanding.

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