

Subject: *Truth Revealed by God*

Scripture: *Deuteronomy 29:29*

The Bible is a book of truth. Jesus prayed, ***John 17:17*** *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* Paul wrote to Timothy, ***2 Timothy 2:15*** *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* There has never been a more crucial time to know what we believe about God's Word. The purpose of these messages is to form or deepen your conviction that the Bible is God's Word, and it can be trusted more than your feelings, opinions, and the teachings of this world.

In these messages about the Bible we are going to look at some important ways in which the Bible is unique, a one-of-a-kind book.

Key Words and Concepts:

- REVELATION: How God revealed His truth to us
- INSPIRATION: How God used men to write His truth
- ILLUMINATION & INTERPRETATION: How God helps us understand His truth
- TRANSMISSION & PRESERVATION: How God keeps His truth in written form
- APPLICATION: How God uses His truth to guide and change our lives

What kind of book is the Bible? Is the Bible a book from God or men? Does it contain man's search for God or does it contain God's revelation to man?

1. The NEED for God's Revelation

Why did God reveal truth to us in the first place? The obvious answer is that He wanted us to know. But it's also because we could not know unless He told us. "Revelation" means something that is uncovered, disclosed, or made known. Look at these verses:

- **Deuteronomy 29:29** *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*
- **Matthew 16:17** *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*
- **1 Corinthians 2:9-10** ⁹ *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

The Bible is truth that God revealed to us that we could not know any other way. The Bible is not the record of human investigation, human observation, human discovery, or human speculation. It is the record of God's revelation. God hasn't revealed everything we want to know, but everything we need to know.

The need for revelation stems from the problem of sin and how sin broke communication between God and man. Man was created in the image and likeness of God. Adam and Eve were made to enjoy a relationship with God. In this relationship God communicated with man and man could comprehend what God said. But the problem came when Adam and Eve sinned. They were separated from God and ever since man is born into a state of spiritual ignorance and darkness. Sin has affected man's mind and his capacity to understand spiritual truth. Unless God took the initiative, it would be impossible for man to know God.

2. The NATURE of God's Revelation

As we think about the nature of God's revelation we are going to look at two areas: what has God revealed and how has He revealed it? What has God revealed to us in the Bible? The simple answer is that He has revealed where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going. This is an important scripture:

- **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ¹⁵ *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁶ *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* ¹⁷ *That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

God revealed His truth to make us wise unto salvation. He tells us what we need to know to be saved. He tells us that we are sinners (the Law). He tells us that Jesus is the only Lord and Savior. He tells us that we must repent (turn from sin) and believe (trust Jesus as Lord and Savior). He tells us how to live for Him and serve Him until we get to Heaven. He tells us what to expect when we get there. Here is another way of looking at what God has revealed:

- God has revealed Himself
- God has revealed His plan of redemption
- God has revealed the curse for sin and disobedience
- God has revealed the blessings of faith and obedience
- God has revealed His purpose and plan for the future

God has revealed things about the past, the present, and the future. How has God revealed His truth to us?

- God spoke through the created world, ***Psalms 19:1*** *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*
- God spoke in an audible voice, ***Genesis 3:9-10*** ⁹ *And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?* ¹⁰ *And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*
- God spoke through visions and dreams
- God spoke through angels
- God spoke through prophets

- God spoke through His Son, *Hebrews 1:1-2* ¹ *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,* ² *Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.*
- God spoke through written words (The Bible) – This is the most complete way of revealing truth to us. The written word includes all these other kinds of revelation.

God has revealed His truth to us, now what? He holds us accountable for the truth we have. Not only are we responsible for what we have, but we are responsible for what we could have known if we had only listened and learned. When Paul traveled to Athens (Acts 17:16-31), the great intellectual capital of the world at that time, he noticed a statue with the inscription “to the unknown god.” He used that statue to preach a message and told them that they could have known the true God and should have known Him, and that God held them accountable for their willful ignorance and commanded all men everywhere to repent of such foolishness. After Jesus was raised from the dead He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and rebuked them for not believing what the scriptures had revealed about Him (Luke 24:13-27). May the Lord help us to know His Word, be serious about it, believe it, and obey it.