

**190227-4 Doctrine Series, The Word of God, the King James Bible – Craig Thurman**

8. The Holy Scriptures\*

The Word of God contained in the Holy Scriptures (the sixty-six books of the Bible) is the rule of this knowledge, faith, and obedience, concerning the worship of God, in which is contained the whole duty of man (not men's laws, or unwritten traditions). Therein is plainly recorded whatsoever is needful for us to know, believe, and practice; which is the only rule of holiness and obedience for all saints at all times and in all places to be observed.

*Col.2:23; Mt.15:6, 9; Jn.5:39, 2Ti.3:15-17; Is.8:20; Gal.1:8, 9; Ac.3:22, 23.*

*\*Formerly Articles 7, 8 of 1644 COF*

25. Faith\*

... The Scriptures hold forth the glory of God in His attributes, the excellency of Christ in His nature and offices, and of the power and fulness of the Spirit in His workings and operations.

*Eph.2:8; Jn.6:29, 4:10; Phl.1:29; Gal.5:22; Jn.17:17; He.4:11, 12; Jn.6:63.*

*\*Formerly Article 22 of 1644 COF*

58. The King James Version of the Bible\*

The King James Version (KJV) of 1611, often referred to as "The Authorized Version," and its subsequent editions up to 1769 is the Bible to be used by the LORD's English-speaking people. We also use the underlying texts of the KJV Bible in the original languages of the Hebrew and Greek. All other versions are different from this Bible. At best they offer commentary on the Scriptures, but most of these add or leave out words, phrases, and entire passages which take away from the deity of Christ, blood redemption, the virgin birth, and a host of other things.

*Mt.4:4; 24:25; Ps.12.6, 6; Pv.30:5, 6; 2Ti.3.16; Re.22:18, 19.*

*\*This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

Recently I had the opportunity to fellowship with a brother via the internet. Through the course of the discussion the point was raised that we differed on the versions of the Bible to use. With that in mind I said to him that we will be limited

in various discussions on many texts of Scripture because there are fundamental differences between the contemporary versions of the Bible and the KJV Bible, not to mention the differences there are between the Greek texts upon which these are based. That it would be difficult, if not entirely impossible, for us to conclude the same things about so many Scriptures because of this. And sure enough, it wasn't but a few days we were faced with this very dilemma.

In Lk.16.9 the version that he used states, *Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when it fails (the KJV has, when ye fail), they may receive you into everlasting habitations.* These statements do not say the same thing.

Those versions which agreed to tss. *when it fails* are the ASV, NASB, RSV, NRSV, NIV, NEB, CEV, ECV, TCNT, Berkley, The Jewish N.T & Amplified Bible. (An alteration of the Scripture resulting from the adoption of a corrupt text. per Lachman, Tischendorf, Tregelles, Alford, based on Aleph, Sinaiticus, D, L, R, P and A, X with either e]kliph or eklei<pw) See John Burgon, *The Revision Revised*, p.139 and *Unholy Hands on the Bible*, vol. 1, 112.

Those versions which agreed to tss. *when ye fail* are the Wycliffe (1380), Tyndale (1534), Cranmer (1539) Geneva (1557), Rheims (1582), KJV (1611). These are supported by 'Twelve uncials, two correctors of Aleph, thebulk of the cursives, Old Latin copies, the Vulgate, Gothic, Harkleian and Ethiopic Versions – plus Irenaeus, Clemens Alex., Origen, Methodius, Basil, Ephraem Syrus, Gregory Naz., Didymus, Chrysostom, Severianus, Jerome, Augustine, Eulogius, Theodoret, and Aphraates (A.D. 325) support the reading e]kli<<phte of the Received Text.' John Burgon, *Unholy Hands on the Bible*, vol. 1, p.112, J. P. Green, Sr.

The discussion was ended shortly afterwards. The point is that our ability to fellowship around the *truths* of God's word is vitally connected to the use of, not only the same Bible, but the *right* Bible version. In order to fellowship around the truths of God's word we must use that Bible which communicates those truths. For example, we might all agree to come together around the New Int'l Version of the Bible. While we might be united in fellowship based upon the message that this version of the Bible teaches, we cannot have fellowship around the *truths* of the word of God because this version of the Bible has serious error in it. How can we have fellowship around the truths of God's Word using a corrupted Bible

version? We cannot. Many well-meaning churches and Christians cripple themselves because they have settled for Bible versions which do not represent a faithful transmission of God's word through the churches from the times of the apostles until now. I lay this fault squarely at the feet of pastors. They should have known better. Thank God that we have agreed together as a church to say that the KJV Bible is the Bible for the English-speaking world.

We know that there is one true God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God. The fact that the children of God know this much is because God *communicated* this information of Himself to His people. God communicates Himself to man in two basic ways. One way is through natural means and the other is through supernatural or spiritual means.

### **God Communicates Generally through Natural Means**

God has chosen to communicate certain things about Himself through nature, or through natural means. He uses natural ways to reveal something about Himself.

*Ro.1.19 ¶ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them;*

(the ungodly and unrighteous of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness, v.18)

*for God hath shewed it unto them.*

*20 For the invisible things (a]o<ratoj, unseen things) of him (God) from the creation of the world are clearly seen,*

(pres. pass. of kaqora<w, that is, they they are reduced to things that men can process through the natural reason; they are come down to view)

*being understood* (verb in part. pres. pass. of noe<w, are perceived, considered, understood)

by the *things that are made,*

(dat. pl. of the noun poih<ma, or *workmanship* [of God], which refers to natural means used to reveal the unseen things concerning God)

*even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse ...*

*Ps.19.11 ¶ « To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. » The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

*2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.*

*3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

The natural things of creation say that God is. This speech is universally understood by all men of every nations and tongue.

*Ps.97.6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.*

This natural means which God uses to reveal Himself is called *general revelation*. This means that God uses natural means as a prevalent or major source of revealing Himself to the natural reason of man. God generally reveals Himself to men through nature. If this were not the will of God no man could reason even this much from nature about the existence of God. God allows men, through human reasoning to gain through the things that are created that He is eternal, infinite, omnipotent, & quite wonderful. To some extent men may also reason from nature that God is omniscient, sovereign, good, holy, just, loving, and avenging. This knowledge of God is so general, so prevalent in nature that those which would deny His existence are counted fools.

*Ps 14:1 ... The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. ... (cf. Ps.53.1)*

*fool, lbAnA, na-val, an adj.; otherwise tss. a vile person; the verb, lb2nA, na-vehl, tss. to do foolishly, to fade, fade away, fall off, fall down, to make vile, lightly esteemed, and to dishonor.*

*1Sa 25:25 Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Belial, even Nabal: for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him: but I thine handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.*

### **God Communicates Specially through Supernatural or Spiritual Means**

This revelation is special because not everyone can or will know God through this means. Special revelation can be divided into two parts.

**First**, briefly on this point, God specially communicated Himself to some through the Person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is called The Word of God.

The Personal communication of God is called the Word (logos) of God.

*Re.19.11 ¶ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

*12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*

*13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*

Through the Second Person of the Trinity God has specially revealed Himself to some men. Not all men will know Christ. But some will.

*Lu 10:22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.*

*Joh 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

*Joh 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?*

*He.1.1 ¶ 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 ...*

**Second**, God specially communicates Himself to some through the written word. The written word is called the Scriptures.

*Scripture*, Gr. noun *graphō*; 51 times & means *the writings*. Not just any writing, but The Writings of God; the verb, *graphō*, to write.

*Mt 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*

*2Pe.3.15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;*

*16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

The Scripture is called the Book (the Bible).

*Heb 9:19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people ...*

*book*, *bibliōn*, see also *biblos*; *bibliōn* is *tss. writing, bill, book, & scroll*; *biblos* is always *tss. book*; at this place in He.9.19 the book refers to the book of that portion of the law received from God while Moses was in Mount Sinai.

Let's consider the Book of God tonight: 'The Word of God & the King James Bible.' Some of the things that I have already said aren't popular, and neither will some of the things that I am about to say. That said, I believe it is the correct position to take.

The KJV Bible is a faithful representation of that which has been transmitted by the people of God for the people of God for millennia. This Book began to be written in the time of Moses and it has been kept ever since by God's people. Properly, the LORD preserves His word to every generation through the agency of His people. For the O.T., first He used the nation of Israel.

*De 4:1 Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.*

*2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*

*Ps 12:6 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.*

After Israel was removed from the stewardship of God (refer to the Parable of the Unjust Steward, Lk. 16.1-13) the churches of Jesus Christ, which in the main became Gentile churches, received that charge. (For the Old & New Testaments, Jn.17.8, 14; 1Ti.3.15).

*Jn.17.8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them ...*

...

*14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them...*

...

*17 ¶ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

*Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

*1Ti 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

The word of God was given to the people of God through *Divine inspiration*. In other words the written communication of God was the result of the Holy Spirit breathing upon the minds of certain, holy men. These men put that Divine communication into written form. Both the men and the words were inspired.

*Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.*

*2Ti 3:16 All scripture (graph<) is given by inspiration of God ...*

*given by inspiration of God, qeo<pneustoj, qeo<j God + pne<w to blow (6), wind (1, Re.7.1, the idea is to the blowing wind).*

*2Pe 1:21 For the prophecy (of the O.T.) came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved (led or borne along) by the Holy Ghost.*

*were moved, fero<menoi, nom. pl. masc. part. pres. pass. of fe<rw; to be brought, to bear, bring forth, reach, carry, lead, lay, drive, uphold, endure, & move.,*

This special revelation has ended. The Holy Spirit no longer *inspires men* to speak and write the Scriptures. Because of this it is one way to separate the faith of God's elect from deceivers. Inspiration is not an ongoing process. Joseph Smith, Ellen White, Mary Baker Eddy, Catholicism, Pentecostalism and more claim to have received direct revelations from God, in addition to the word of God.

*1Co.13.8 ¶ Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

*9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.*

*10 But when that which is perfect is come,*

Refers to a thing, nom. neut., and that thing is the word of God, the Scriptures of the New Testament

*then that which is in part shall be done away.*

*11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

*12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

*Re 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*



*19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

But the word of God did not cease to be inspired. It is my opinion that a number of brethren err on the doctrine of inspiration in this way. Though we agree that the word of God was given by inspiration they think that somehow the inspiration of that word stopped with the original languages of Hebrew and Greek. But that word did not stop being the inspired word because it was brought into other languages. I'm not claiming inspiration for any translators of any Bible, not even for the King James translators' committee. But if that word is faithfully communicated into the target language it remains the inspired word of God. Men do not have a right to tinker with God's word as it is has become just another book by men. I reject the notion that, since the original documents are no longer in existence, we have an inferior Bible. I believe God keeps His promise. He said He would preserve it to every generation and I believe Him, whether I can explain it all or not.

*Ps.12.7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*

The Scriptures were collected into a book and given a name. The name given to the book was often the same as the man that God used to write them. Eventually these were collected into one large group, which we now call the Bible.

*Ex 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this (account of the battle with Amalek) for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.*

*1Sa 10:25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.*

*Job 19:23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!*

*Isa 30:8 Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:*

*Jer 30:2 Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book.*

The Bible is not like all of the other books that are written. The eternal God communicates an inerrant, harmonious, eternal message. For us, whether we read the Bible in the Greek, Hebrew, or the English languages.

*Ps 119:89 LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*

*settled, bcanA, na-tzav in Niphal (simple passive), and tss. is settled, is set, is set up, is erected, is established, is standing.*

*Joh 10:35 ... the scripture cannot be broken ...*

*Mt 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

*Ps 119:160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*

*Ro 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*

We are to receive the Bible as the very word of God.

*1Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

We dare not alter any word of these no matter what language it might come into.

*Re.22.16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

*17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

*18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*

*19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

*Deu.4.1 ¶ Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.*

*2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*

The word of God presents to the child of God the only sufficient rule of faith and practice. Through it the saints of God receive comfort, encouragement.

*Ps 119:105 NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

*Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

*2Ti 3:15 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 ...*

*2Pe 1:19 We (Peter and the audience to whom he writes, we) have also a more sure (more steadfast, more firm) word of prophecy (than the voice which he and James & John heard in the day when Christ was transfigured before them, when they heard God's voice from heaven.); whereunto (to which word) ye do well that*

*ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts ...*

*Ro.15.4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

*5 ¶ Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:*

*6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

This special revelation of God is written for the children of God. The world thinks that it is utter folly to follow a book that was written over thousands of years by many men at different places and times in human history. But because we have received everlasting life, and have been caused to hear the gospel of Christ and believe, we know that it is the wisdom of God which. And if we will apply this word the Spirit of God will work through it so that our lives are saved, reserved, kept for the glory of God by Jesus Christ. It was not written to the world. It was not given to the world. The world has no understanding of it, of God, or of His children.

*2Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

God has given His word to His own. Specifically, He has given it into the care of His churches to show the light of Jesus Christ before others. By His grace, and only through the Scriptures, the right Scriptures, the KJV Scriptures before us can we gain the *knowledge* of the Word, our Lord Jesus Christ, God our Father, and God the Holy Spirit. After knowledge comes the experience.

*1Jo 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

Know this word, and then walk with Him according to that truth.