

GOD COMMUNICATES

I. God Talks to His People

A. Full Bible Christians testify that the Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy God. “All *scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable* for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*” (2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17)

B. The Bible is the reliable account of redemption through Christ; the power of Scripture is the message of grace, which the Holy Spirit delivers through it. “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And *are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*” (EPHESIANS 2:13-22)

II. People Ignore or Corrupt the Creation Message

A. Creation tells enough about God to remove any excuse for human behavior, but conviction is not all people need. “Because *that which may be known of God is manifest in them*; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the *creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*” (ROMANS 1:19-20)

B. Because creation reflects the Creator, even pagans and infidels have troublesome consciences. “For *when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law* unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, *their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;*” (ROMANS 2:14-15)

C. Sinful humanity distorts God's message and in doing so seeks to close the doors of heaven. "Who *knowing the judgment of God*, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, *not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them*. Therefore *thou art inexcusable, O man*, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." (ROMANS 1:32-2:1)

III. The Bible Preserves God's Message

A. The Bible writers wrote with the stated intention of preserving truth. "It seemed good to me also, *having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee* in order, most excellent Theophilus, *That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.*" (LUKE 1:3-4)

B. The Bible is God's instrument for developing hope through knowledge of true gospel history; God would not let Scripture fail. "For whatsoever things *were written aforetime* were written *for our learning*, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures *might have hope.*" (ROMANS 15:4)

C. God takes a detailed interest in the preservation of His Word to accomplish heaven's objectives; every word matters to the God of Providence. "But he answered and said, It is written, *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*" (MATTHEW 4:4)

D. Jesus set the pattern for determining matters by Scripture rather than by human judgment. "Jesus said unto him, *It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*" (MATTHEW 4:7)

E. People get gospel light from the Bible or they do not get truth from God. "*To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*" (ISAIAH 8:20)

F. The Bible protects believers from cunning doctrines and profane claims of false science. "For *we have not followed cunningly devised fables*, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, *but were eyewitnesses* of his majesty." (2 PETER 1:16) "O Timothy, *keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:* Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace *be* with thee. Amen. *The first to Timothy was written from Laodicea, which is the chiefest city of Phrygia Pacatiana.*" (1 TIMOTHY 6:20-21)

G. God's personal Providence make the Bible both reliable and indispensable. "We have also *a more sure word of prophecy*; whereunto 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:* Knowing this first, that *no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.* For the *prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*" (2 PETER 1:19-21)

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