

SERMON OUTLINE

'KNOWING CHRISTIANITY'

Study - 2

2 Timothy 3 v1 - 17 & 2 Pet 1 v16 - 21

'What do we believe about the Bible?'

Key Question - Why is the Bible so very important both to what I am to believe and to how I am to behave?

St Augustine (addressing God) - 'What your Bible says, you say!'

Note the background to all that Paul says about the Bible here in 2 Timothy, namely - the Bible was under attack. See - 1 v13 - 14. People in the church were increasingly refusing to acknowledge the truth of God's Truth, the Bible. See - 3 v7. In other words, with respect to doctrinal matters we can't be sure about what we should believe and with respect to moral matters we can't be sure about how we should behave. That is - dogmatism is out and relativism is in.

1. THE NECESSITY OF THE BIBLE

God has made Himself known to us in a general revelation of Himself - speaking through the glory of creation and the voice of conscience.

God has made Himself known to us in a special revelation of Himself both in the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word, and (seeing Him and hearing Him) through Holy Scripture, the written Word

2. THE ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE

A. IT COMES FROM ABOVE - FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD

See - 2 Tim 3 v16a.

B. IT COME FROM BELOW - FROM THE HANDS OF MEN

See - 2 Pet 1 v20 - 21. The Holy Spirit moved the authors of the Bible to write exactly what God wanted them to write. We are there-

fore able to say - 'what the Bible says, God says'.

Key Question - Why do people have such problems in believing and accepting the Bible? The problem is not intellectual, it's moral. See - 2 Tim 3 v2 - 5a. The problem that most people have is not so much to do with believing in the Bible, as submitting to the Bible.

Key Point - Jesus view of the Bible.....

(i) JESUS ENDORSED THE BIBLE

Again and again, He said - 'It is written' and 'have you not read?'

(ii) JESUS FULFILLED THE BIBLE

See - Matt 5 v17

(iii) JESUS COMPLETED THE BIBLE

See - Jn 14 v26 & Jn 16 v12 - 13a

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE

To make us wise! See - Matt 7 v24 - 27. And especially, it's to make us wise with respect to our need of the gospel. See - Jn 17 v3 & 2 Tim 3 v14 - 15. This is why the Bible is full of Jesus.

THE OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES JESUS
THE GOSPELS REVEAL JESUS
THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES PREACH JESUS
THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS EXPOUND JESUS
THE REVELATION GLORIFIES JESUS

4. THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE BIBLE

See - 2 Tim 3 v16b - 17. The Bible doesn't tell us all that we want to know, it tells us all that we need to know so that we might live lives that glorify God and are a blessing to others and to us. And so.....

GOD'S PROMISES IN THE BIBLE ARE TO BE BELIEVED
GOD'S COMMANDS IN THE BIBLE ARE TO BE OBEYED
GOD'S TEACHINGS IN THE BIBLE ARE TO BE PRACTICED