

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 7 (February 9-15, 2014)

You will never grow deeper in your faith until you develop confidence and trust in God's written Word; therefore, we will spend the next few weeks looking at claims concerning the authenticity of the Bible.

Sunday – February 9

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

Jesus prays these words as He requests protection for His disciples who have believed in Him and followed Him. He acknowledges that the truth from the Word of God will be their defense as they stand up against the world (which has been temporarily assigned to Satan) that hates Him and His Word (See Luke 4:6). Don't be led astray by those who say the Bible is not meant to be interpreted literally. If we cannot trust His Word, where can we turn for truth in these dark days? The Word of God is not popular in any nation striving for political correctness, but it **must** be our guide as we live in a world that is becoming increasingly hostile to the message of Scripture.

Monday – February 10

Above all you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

This may be the Bible's greatest proclamation concerning the infallibility and authenticity of Scripture. Forty different men wrote our Bible in three different languages on three different continents over a period of two thousand years, and all 66 books fit together flawlessly. What are the odds of that unless the Holy Spirit is the author of the entire Book? I preach **prophecy** with the same confidence that I preach the rest of the Bible, because I know that the future events must come to pass to verify God's Word. Unless you can learn to trust His Word, you have no chance to grow in your faith, nor do you have any assurance in the accuracy of what you have already believed. Allow the claims of the Bible to become your confidence from this day on!

Tuesday – February 11

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

This proclamation of the accuracy and power of God's Word was written by the pen of the Apostle Paul to his understudy, Timothy. Those who have confidence in the Bible as the **Living Word of God** will certainly continue to study it and use it to refute the politically correct thinking of the world that hates true believers because the world does not **want** to be taught, rebuked, corrected and trained. Expect the circumstances for Christians to get worse daily until Jesus comes for His Church. Only the Scriptures can "make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Wednesday – February 12

*Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the **other Scriptures**, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:15-16, emphasis mine)*

There are people going by the name of Christian who believe the words of Jesus, but who reject the letters written by Paul. Peter confirms the fact that all of Paul's letters are part of God's entire written Scripture; therefore, they are delivered from his pen to our hearts without error. God has given us no better knowledge of His plan of salvation than the messages written by Paul, especially in his letter to the Romans. Learn to trust the entire Bible! You will find perfect peace in the midst of the storms in addition to wisdom for daily living, guidance through troubling times and courage for facing adversity.

Thursday – February 13

For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

The Bible is accurate as a history book, but that is not God's intent in preserving it against all efforts of men to destroy it. It is "living and active" which means that it never becomes obsolete because of some new discovery made by man. I once used the Bible only as a guide to keep me from outward sins, but now I use it to "judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." When I thought I was doing pretty good in my actions, God opened a whole new window to show me just how much **mercy** and **grace** it takes to keep me "holy and blameless in His sight" (Ephesians 1:4). I challenge you to look deep within yourself and see what God sees when He examines your heart (see 1 Samuel 16:7). You'll be glad you did when you stand before Him.

Friday – February 14

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:13)

I ended yesterday's devotion with the thought of standing before God in judgment. Thank the Lord that Christians will not be judged for their sins because Jesus paid the penalty for them. We will be judged by the quality of our works, whether they were done for His glory or for ours (see 1 Corinthians 3:10-15). At that time, "He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts" (see 1 Corinthians 4:5). Make sure that you do not deceive yourself in judging your actions by their success rather than by your motives.

Saturday – February 15

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

The subject of Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, is the **Word of God**. I will use some more verses from this great psalm next week. Today's verse admonishes us to walk in the light of God's Word and not in the darkness of our Satan-controlled world. Scripture gives us clear teachings on almost every challenge we face in our day to day living. It will be hard to follow the blueprint of the Bible for Holy living once the physical persecutions begin to take place. They have already begun for many people on the front line of the battle. Can yours be far behind?