

The Bible Is Our Sole Authority

II Timothy 3:15-17

Introduction:

The Bible is our only authority in all matters of faith and practice because the Bible is _____ by God and bears the absolute _____ of God Himself. Whatever the Bible affirms, Baptists accept as true. This is the _____ doctrine among Bible-believing Baptists.

I. Why this Makes Baptists _____

Those who claim the name "Christian" may be divided into four categories based on authority.

A. _____ Christianity

In this group the stated authority is the Word of God and _____. When a conflict arises, tradition _____ the Word of God.

These Christian denominations believe that the edicts of councils, statements of church leaders (i.e. the Pope), and traditions of the church are of equal or greater authority than the _____.

Examples:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

B. _____ Christianity

The authority is the Word of God and _____.

These groups believe that God still gives special _____ to its members in the form of spiritual gifts, such as speaking in tongues, and gifts of prophecy.

I Corinthians 13:8-10 "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease... But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

When God's perfect revelation to man was complete (the Bible), then those spiritual signs and revelations stopped. In the 66 books of the Bible, God has given us _____ we need for our faith and practice. (See II Peter 1:3)

II Peter 1:16-21, (v. 19) *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed..."* According to Peter's inspired account, the written Word is _____ than the audible _____ of God.

C. _____ Christianity

Most Evangelical and Protestant Christians say the Word of God is their authority, but when it conflicts with human _____, the Bible is over-ruled.

In most study Bibles you will find repeated over and over again the note: "This verse is not contained in the best manuscripts." That is human scholarship sitting in _____ upon God's Word.

D. Bible-Believing Baptists

Our authority is the Word of God. God said it and that settles it, regardless of who believes it.

1. Supernaturally _____

God's Holy Spirit overshadowed, empowered, breathed upon and directed men of God to write the exact words of God. It does not only _____ the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.

The Word of God came not by the will of _____, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (*I Peter 1:19-21*)

All Scripture is given by _____ of God. (*II Timothy 3:16-17*)

2. Totally _____

The Bible is true, without any admixture of error. Jesus said that it was true. (*John 17:17; Matt. 5:18; Matt 4:4; John 10:35*)

It is also verified by archaeology, fulfilled _____, and its _____ despite the attacks of critics and unbelievers.

3. God's _____ Revelation

Baptists believe that God revealed all He wanted man to know in the Bible.

Any attempts to _____ or _____ from the completed revelation of God would be cursed. (*Revelation 22:18-19*)

4. The _____ Authority

Our Articles of Faith says that the Bible is “the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.”

In all our ways we are to take _____ to His Word. (*Psalms 119:9*)

The Scripture is our source of _____. (*II Timothy 3:16*)

5. The _____ Testament is the Guide for the Church

The Old Testament is just as inspired as the New, and from it we learn many _____ relating to personal, civil, and church life. But only the New Testament explicitly teaches us about the church.

II. The Words of God

A. They are _____ Words

"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." (Psalm 12:6)

"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." (Psalm 119:140)

B. They are _____ Words

"Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." (Psalm 12:7)

C. They are _____ Words

"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." (Psalm 119:89)

"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." (Psalm 119:160)

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." (Isaiah 40:8)

D. They are _____ Words

"And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved." (Psalm 119:47)

E. They are _____ Words

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." (Psalm 138:2)

F. They are _____ Words

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)