

# APPROVED UNTO GOD

## DOCTRINE OF REVELATION

When is your faith your responsibility?

Age of Accountability

Definition: *the point when a person is mature enough to understand and to be responsible for their own behavior - the age may vary from one individual to another because many social, environmental and intellectual factors.*

1 Peter 3:15

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

We are to be imitators of Christ.

## DEFINITION OF WORLDVIEW:

*Worldview refers to the framework of ideas and beliefs through which an individual interprets the world and interacts with it.*

An individual's worldview is the basis for answering such questions as:

- Who created us?
- Why is there evil?
- What is the redemption story?
- What do we do next?

## BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW:

The simplest definition of a Biblical Worldview is to have the mind of Christ.

*That would mean that one would think like Christ; love like Christ; act like Christ; walk like Christ: have the humility, patience, longsuffering... and all the fruit of the Spirit.*

DEFINITION OF REVELATION:

"Galah" - **Hebrew word for reveal, meaning to uncover what is concealed**

DEFINITION OF REVELATION: God making himself known to man

I. Two ways which God has revealed himself to man

A. **General** Revelation (**BIG** Way • to everyone) -- *The result of general revelation is that all know God's goodness and power. It is adequate for condemnation, but does not lead to redemption.*

1. **Creation** -- Romans 1:20 & Isaiah 40:25-26

*For since the Creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*

*"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.*

2. **Conscience** -- Romans 2:12-15

*All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by very nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)*

3. **History** -- Acts 17:26,27

*From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.*

***General Revelation does not provide knowledge of the only true solution – that only comes through the special revelation of Jesus.***

B. **Special** Revelation (**Personal** Way (to specific people/individual))

1. **History and Incarnation** (God became man)
2. **Canon: The Bible**; the collection of 66 books which the church officially recognizes as genuinely and uniquely inspired by God.
3. **Prophets** sent by God to specific people or cities to interpret what God has said and tell that to the people

II. **The Doctrine of Scripture**

A. Facts about the Bible

1. Greek word for "Bible" means **a collection of books.**
2. Written over a time span of **1,500 years.**
3. **66 books** -- unfolding revelation of God.
  - a) **39 Old Testament books** -- written in Hebrew and a little Aramaic.
  - b) **27 New Testament books** -- written in Greek and Aramaic, the languages Jesus spoke.
4. The **"Canon"** is the collection of books that is considered inspired.
  - a) WHY -- are these books included, but not any others?
  - b) WHEN -- were these books canonized?
    - 1) Old Testament -- **was canonized before Christ.**
    - 2) New Testament -- **most of it was canonized by 170 A.D. All was certified by 397 A.D., the year of The Council of Carthage.**
5. Each writer **wrote in his own style.**
6. The Bible had **40** inspired authors, contained **3** main languages and was written on **3** different continents.

B. Inspiration: The preservation of God's Word.

1. Inspiration defined -- *The Holy Spirit guiding men to record what God revealed to them – rendering their writing accurate.*
2. There are several ways in which the Bible gives witness of its divine origin.
  - a) 2 Peter 1:20-21 -- 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

*Prophecy is not made by man, but by the Holy Spirit spoken from God. 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.*

- b) 2 Timothy 3:16-17 -- *The Bible teaches us and is good for reproof, correction, training in . . . – All Scripture is from the mouth of God.*

*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.*

- c) 2 Samuel 23:2 -- *God spoke through human servants*

*"The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; his word was on my tongue.*

C. Inerrancy: The dependability of God's Word

1. Inerrancy defined: *The Bible is without error in the original "autographs."*
2. Why is inerrancy important to us? *God is utterly trustworthy, dependable, and has all authority.*

D. Authority: The power of God's Word

1. The authority defined: *The Scriptures have the power to command beliefs and action.*
2. The internal work of the Holy Spirit
3. Validity - **Jesus believed in Scripture**  
Jesus repeatedly referred to OT Scriptures "...have you not read"  
(Matthew 22:31, Mark 12:36)

III. Application

- A. *The Bible does not merely contain the Word of God; it is the Word of God.*
- B. *The Bible is a guidebook.*
- C. *We are held responsible for what we do about it.*

*James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

*James 4:17*

*Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*

- D. *Daily study of the Word of God helps us to know how to live for Him.*

- E. *God promises to open and explain His Word by the Holy Spirit when we apply ourselves.*

*Prov. 2:1–6*

*My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

## RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE

### I. CONFIRMATION BY HISTORICAL TEXT

#### A. Manuscript Evidence

5,300 Greek manuscripts

10,000 copies of the Latin Vulgate

9,300 others

24,600 manuscript copies or portions in existence today!

#### B. Comparison

#2 is Homer's Iliad

only 643 manuscript copies still survive

the first of which is full dates from the 13th century!

### II. WHERE DID THE BIBLE COME FROM?

#### A. How Was It Prepared?

Papyrus - Reeds made into paper

Parchment - Prepared skins of sheep, goats, antelope...

Vellum - Calf-skin

#### B. Form

Scrolls

Books

### III. THE CANON

#### A. Definition

"Reed or Measuring Rod"

#### B. Applied To Scripture

"An accepted list of books"

#### C. Tests Of A Book For Inclusion

1. Is it Authoritative - Did it come from the hand of God?

2. "Thus saith The Lord..."

3. Is it Prophetic? Written by a man of God?

4. Is it Authentic? The Christian Fathers would say "if in doubt, throw it out!"

5. Is it Dynamic? Does it come with the life-transforming power of God?

6. Was it received, collected, read and used? Accepted by people of God?