

DENIALS OF THE ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF THE BIBLE

Introduction

- 1) The Scriptures are the *all-sufficient* guide and authority in religion and life (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 - a) Furnishes us unto *all* good works (v. 17) because the Holy Spirit guided the apostles into *all* truth (Jn. 16:13) which is the faith that has been *once for all delivered* to the saints (Jude 3)
- 2) The New Testament is the “perfect law of liberty” (Jas. 1:25) and provides the complete understanding of God’s will (Eph. 3:3-5; 5:17), while the Old Testament scriptures have been preserved for our learning to strengthen our hope in God and our salvation in Christ (Rom. 15:4)
- 3) But, sadly, there are very real beliefs and doctrines that deny the all-sufficiency of the Bible...

I) Human Creeds and Traditions

- A) The creeds and traditions of men are often given the same (or more) authority as Scripture
 - 1) Roman Catholicism teaches that the Bible is *not* the only source of faith/truth ^(Quotes 1, 2) and that *church tradition* is also a source of divine teaching and understanding ^(Quotes 3, 4)
 - 2) Laws and rules of human councils, creeds, manuals, disciplines, and catechisms ^(Quote 5)
- B) Christ gave no church or man the authority to make laws or formulate doctrine
 - 1) Jesus has all authority (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:22)
 - 2) Church is to uphold the revealed truth (1 Tim. 3:15)
 - 3) Christians must not think beyond what is written (1 Cor. 4:6)
 - 4) Doctrines and commandments of men are wrong (Matt. 15:9)
 - 5) Be careful to always trust in God and His word, not in men (Psa. 118:8)

II) Latter-Day Revelations and Prophets

- A) “Additional” revelations have become additions and replacements for the Bible
 - 1) *Examples: Koran* ^(Quote 6), *Book of Mormon* ^(Quote 7), *Science and Health with a Key to the Scriptures* ^(Quote 8)
 - 2) Often come with allegations about corruptions of the Bible which are not proven
- B) Modern prophets claim to bring “truth” in addition to the Bible
 - 1) *Examples:* Muhammad, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Ellen G. White, etc.
 - 2) Often come with claims of power – healing, visions (but no resurrection from the dead!)
- C) Adding to the all-sufficient Word is condemned (Gal. 1:8; Rev. 22:18; 2 Thess. 2:1-2)

III) Holy Spirit Illumination and Continuous Revelation

- A) Some claim to have the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit today in “illumination” (interpretation of scripture) and “continuous revelation” (additional truth)
 - 1) Has led to contradictory interpretations and various “new” revelations
- B) No promise revealed of an ongoing supernatural guidance by the Holy Spirit in interpretation of scripture or new revelation *in addition to* the Bible
 - 1) *John 16:13* – spoken to apostles who would reveal all truth (accomplished – Jude)
 - 2) *Mark 16:17-18, 20* – promise completed when the word revealed and fully confirmed
- C) Gifts of the Spirit ceased with completion of perfect revelation of truth (1 Cor. 13:8-10)
 - 1) No miraculous healing, prophecy, or illumination of the “called” today

Conclusion

These attempts to deny the all-sufficiency of God’s word and lead people away from the truth once for all delivered to the saints will not stand in the judgment day (Jn. 12:48). What is all-sufficient for us? “And now, brethren, I commend you to *God* and to the *word of His grace*, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32)

Quotes:

1. "A rule of faith or a competent guide to heaven, must be able to instruct in all the truths necessary for salvation. Now the Scriptures alone do not contain all the truths which a Christian is bound to believe, nor do they explicitly enjoin all the duties which he is obliged to practice" (James Cardinal Gibbons, *Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 72)
2. "Is not the Bible the only source of faith – the one means whereby the teachings of Christ have been handed down to us?
No, the Bible is not the only source of faith...the Bible itself is a but a dead letter calling for a divine interpreter... ...a number of revealed truths have been handed down by divine tradition only" (Bertrand L. Conway, *The Question Box*, p. 76).
3. "By what right do you teach doctrines not found in the Bible?
Because the Bible nowhere implies that it is the only source of faith...The tradition of the Church is not human opinion, but the divine teaching of an infallible Apostolate established by Christ Himself" (Bertrand L. Conway, *The Question Box*, pp. 77-78)
4. "While the bible contains God's original revelation, yet the bible cannot be understood alone. The Church's living tradition is necessary to understand it" (Anthony Wilhelm, *Christ Among Us*, 2nd rev. ed., p. 168)
5. "**Nature and Authority of Christian Creeds.** It is often assumed that a creed is a catalog of authorized beliefs designed as a test of orthodoxy. But the history of the origin and use of Christian creeds proves that such an interpretation is too narrow... The basic creedal function that underlies all the others is to establish the identity of a community or to identify oneself with it" ("Creeds: Christian Creeds," *encyclopedia.com*)
6. "This Koran could not have been composed by any but Allah...It is beyond doubt from the Lord of the Creation" (*Koran* 10:37)
7. "Thou fool, that shall say: A Bible, we have got a Bible, and we need no more Bible... Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written"
(*Book of Mormon*, 2 Nephi 29:6, 10)
8. "A Christian Scientist requires my work SCIENCE AND HEALTH for his textbook, and so do all his students and patients. Why? *First:* Because it is the voice of Truth to this age, and contains the full statement of Christian Science, or the Science of healing through Mind. *Second:* Because it was the first book known, containing a thorough statement of Christian Science. Hence it gave the first rules for demonstrating this Science, and registering the revealed Truth uncontaminated by human hypothesis" (*Science and Health with a Key to the Scriptures*, pp. 456-457)