
It is Written

Man shall not live by bread alone

Objective: To prove that both Testaments are divinely inspired.
Subject: Bible
Text: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION

The first recorded words of Jesus after his entrance into ministry are an assertion of the authority of scripture.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

When addressing man, our Lord seldom quoted scripture, but said, “*I say unto you.*”

But in answer to Satan he says, “*It is written.*”

After fulfilling the Holy Spirit’s assignment of fasting for forty days and forty nights the book of Matthew highlights what is referred to as the famous duel between Michael and the dragon.

It was a duel between:

- The Seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent
- The Creator and the creature
- The tempter and the Deliverer

When Christ was baptized, he did not go to Jerusalem, to preach glad tidings but retired into a wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

The scholars say that this hand to hand combat occurred probably in the great wilderness of Sinai, where Moses and Elijah fasted forty days.

The devil begins by questioning the divine nature of Jesus

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

- If God were thy Father, he would not see thee starve, for all the beasts of the forest are his – **“command that these stones be made bread.”**
- If at your baptism there was a voice from heaven saying that this is my beloved son and that voice is the voice of God - **“command that these stones be made bread.”**
- If the Spirit led you here then why are you so hungry? - **“command that these stones be made bread.”**

Christ refused to comply with the devil's suggestion. He answered and said, “It is written.”

In answering the devil, Christ quoted from the Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

In fact, it is observable that Christ answered and baffled all the temptations of Satan with, “It is written.”

He did not use philosophy. He did not use logic. He used what He himself inspired men to write - The Word of God.

BODY

The meaning of this scripture is; not that as the body lives by bread, so the soul lives by the word of God.

This verse of Scripture does not indicate that the Word of God can satisfy your physical hunger.

What it says is this:

God, in satisfying man's hunger, and in supporting and preserving his life, is not tied to bread only, but can make use of other means like He did by raining manna from heaven.

But what is clear from Jesus' quoting from the Bible in answering and defeating all of Satan's temptations is the validity and authority of the Bible.

The Psalmist says of the Bible:

Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:105 Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Friends, it is clear from Scripture that the authority of the Bible is a direct result of its inspiration.

1. Jesus quoted from what He inspired men to write
2. In His duel with the devil, He used the Bible
3. When he began His ministry on Earth, he quoted from Isaiah 61:1

If knowing the Bible is important to Jesus, it should be important to those who accept Him as their Savior.

The Apostle Paul understanding the importance of Scripture declares:

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

ILLUSTRATION:

Some time ago, a little boy named Joey who was nine years old, went to his Sabbath School class and heard his teacher talk about how Israel escaped the clutches of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. When Joey got home, he was asked by his mother what he had learned that morning.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across safely. He used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters and call in an air strike when the Egyptians were closing in on them. They sent in bombers to blow up the bridge and destroy the enemy, and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that REALLY what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

APPLICATION:

While we might find this little story amusing, it does show an attitude that is prevalent in our world today as far as the status of the Bible is concerned. Many would talk about the Bible as if it were based on myth or legend. Some question its historical accuracy. Others propose it is merely fiction and the invention of mankind.

But the Apostle Paul who himself wrote 13 books of the Bible insists that the Bible is not based on myth or legend. It is not fiction. It came from the mind of God.

(NIV) 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

The question is - what emphasis should we place on the Holy Scriptures as we live from day to day?

How is Scripture unique? What is the Bible good for? And what will living my life according to the Bible do for me?

1. HOW IS SCRIPTURE UNIQUE?

Paul begins 2 Timothy 3:16 by affirming the excellency of Scripture. He says "ALL SCRIPTURE"

Taken from the Greek Bible it reads: Every writing divinely inspired is profitable for doctrine, etc.

Paul's affirmation does not indicate that some sections of the Bible are God's Word and other sections are not.

The Bible does not contain the Word of God—it IS the Word of God.

The book of Revelation shows that the Word of God had to be inspired by God.

- Who can explain a beast coming up out of the sea with 7 heads and 10 horns?
- Who can explain the meaning behind the 7 seals?
- Who is the woman that sits on a scarlet colored beast?

In fact, God gave the vision and explained the vision to John.

And so it is clear that the Bible is a cooperative effort between God Himself and the individuals He chose to write Scripture.

While God used the individual personalities of the men who first penned Scripture to explain what God wanted to communicate to us, He is the originator of the Bible.

2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

(Good News Bible) 2 Peter 1:20 Above all else, however, remember that none of us can explain by ourselves a prophecy in the Scriptures.

2 Peter 1:21 For no prophetic message ever came just from the human will, but people were under the control of the Holy Spirit as they spoke the message that came from God.

- 1 God's Word is also unique because it gives us specific insight into who God is and what He expects of us.
2. It is unique because it is God's autobiography and His commentary on History.
3. It is unique because The Bible explains itself and it has enough recorded that can guarantee our salvation.

2. What is the Bible good for?

The second part of verse 16 informs us that because the Scripture is inspired, it is therefore profitable, beneficial, useful, and valuable for four things:

1. First, it is to be used to instruct and teach us as to what the beliefs of the Christian faith are.
 - a. It is to be used to instruct us in God's truth.
 - b. It is God's manual as to how we are to conduct our affairs in the workplace, church, home, and society in general.
2. Second, it is to be used to reprove and rebuke those who are in sin.
3. Third, it is to be used to restore people and improve their lives and character.
 - a. It reforms us as it rehabilitates us.
 - b. The Bible has been given to us to straighten us out.
4. Fourth, it is God's manual to instruct and train us in righteousness.
 - a. The Bible gives us a discipline to follow and it trains us to live righteously.
 - b. It also chastens and convicts us when we stray and err.
 - c. It trains us to live and be rightly related to God and to live in such a way that we gain His approval.

3. What will living my life according to the Bible do for me?

The individual who wishes to be called a man or woman of God will be a man or woman who abides in His Word.

Living my life according to the Bible will produce in my life:

- Peace
- Joy
- Contentment

Living my life according to the Bible:

- Will give me hope in a hopeless world.
- Will help me to face death unafraid. (Psalm 23)

- Will take my mind from the material to the eternal. GO ON!!

Living my life according to the Bible will help me to live holy in this sinful world.

1. If a man lives his life according to the Bible, that man cannot become a homosexual.
2. If a woman lives her life according to the Bible that woman cannot become a lesbian.
3. If a child lives his or her life according to the Bible that child will be a blessing to any parent.

An old preacher once said: “This book will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from this book.”

Verse 17 further tells us that the goal of instruction, correction, and restoration, comes as a result of applying God’s Word to one’s life.

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The idea here is not that anyone is absolutely perfect, but that the Scriptures have laid down the way which leads to perfection.

No wonder the Bible, the written Word, leads us to a relationship with the living Word.

You cannot accept the truths of the Bible, without accepting the Truth of the Bible.
(John 14:6)

1. The Old Testament highlights the Ministry of Jesus and the New Testament endorses the Ministry of Jesus.
2. Both Testaments highlight the life of Jesus.
3. Both Testaments validate the death, burial and resurrection.

Both Testaments agree:

- The Old Testament indicates that He will be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2).
- The New Testament endorses his birth in Bethlehem of Judea (Matthew 2:1).

And the list can go on and on!

Paul had to be inspired to write:

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

CONCLUSION

Before affirming the excellency of Scripture in 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 that perilous times will come.

Perilous times when men will no longer abide in sound doctrine, and will become lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

Sadly, this is taking place in our day.

Yet in this time of falling away, we read that the Scriptures are able to make one wise unto salvation.

We also read in the book of Hebrews that the Word of God is living and active; sharp as a surgeon's scalpel.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1. The God who created us wants us to love the book that He inspired.
2. He wants us to embrace the truth in the book.
3. He wants us to live by the book.

The end result of being people who live by the book will be that its teachings and values will be engrained in our thoughts and actions as we live during these last days.

In addition, the transformational power of Scripture will be seen by others as we commit ourselves to live by its teachings.

ACTION

ILLUSTRATION:

A mother and daughter were busy cleaning the house before some guests came to visit. When the daughter got to the round table in the corner of the living room where a big Bible was placed, she asked her mom, “Mother, whose book is this?”

The mother in a moment of nobility said, “My dear, that is God’s book.”

The girl replied, “Mother let us give it back to God because no one here reads it.”

APPLICATION:

The Bible is the most popular book but the book that is least read.

1. If the Bible is rightly placed crimes and violence will be reduced.
2. Husbands and wives will be faithful to each other.
3. Marriage will be between a man and a woman and not a man and a man or a woman and a woman.

Today, the God who created us is calling us back to the book that explains the creation of the world.

Today the God who died for us in the person of Jesus Christ is calling us back to the book that validates his death, burial and resurrection.

Today the God in the person of the Holy Spirit is calling us back to the book that sanctifies and directs.

THE CALL

1. Do you believe that both Testaments are inspired by God and are relevant to us living in 2009?
2. Do you believe that knowing and understanding the Bible can give you the power to live a life pleasing to God?
3. Do you believe that God wants you to accept the truths of the Bible?

ADDITIONAL TOPICS:

The Owner's Manual

Check out the Book

The importance of the Word of God in a troubled world

Biblical Authority

What the Bible can do for you