Chapter 10

'Bible is the Only Word of God'

Presupposition: God exists and reveals Himself to the human race. Therefore, He communicated to us by means of the authoritative written Word contained in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Their teachings are intended to be a guide for behaviour in all areas of life. They are valid for all time as a standard for morality, faith and provide principles for every activity of life and are God's revelation of absolute truth.'

Atheism has no authority outside of the human being. He therefore has no absolute standard by which to judge his actions. The humanists have their manifestos which lay out the guiding principles. They continue to strive to live by the principles and meet the goals established in the manifestos. However they recognize them as human documents and therefore changeable. It is the fallible word of their changeable god, man himself. The documents are like a statement of faith and practice, used as the guide for their affairs.

Polytheistic religions have their sacred books. They are often the writings of the founder or some great prophet in their history. Their claim to inspiration is dubious. There are the Vedas of the Hindu and the Book of Mormon for the Latter Day Saints. It is not our purpose to delve into the objections to these sacred writings as revelations from God. That is a subject for Theology or Apologetics.

Monotheistic religions, such as Islam, also have their sacred writings. The Koran claims to be inspired of God.

Biblical monotheism holds there is only one written communication inspired of God. The presupposition of the authority of the Scriptures springs not only from His existence but also from His position as Creator of all. God is Creator and Sovereign of all things. His providence rules, therefore, He controls all everything. His Word is the final authority because He is the final authority. The Scriptures are seen as God breathed. The belief in the inspiration of the Bible teaches the writers wrote without error the words of God, while at the same time expressing it in their individual style.

2 Pet 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.

2 Tim. 3:16 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The Scripture is God breathed or inspired. It is inspired in a manner that is greater than any other writing. We speak of poetry as being inspired but when we speak of the inspiration of the Scripture we speak in terms of it being breathed by God. Their origin is in Him. Men were used to write the Scriptures but they were no the result of human effort or ingenuity. They originated from the mouth of the Almighty. One must begin with a presupposition and we begin this one. Anyone who denies the inspiration of the Scripture, works from a non-Christian presupposition. He has left the gate open for a flood of liberalism. The underming of the Scriptures bring them into disrepute. Christ's atonement becomes lightly regarded and the necessity of salvation denied. Miracles are explained away or reinterpreted. Modernism,
relativism, empiricism, utilitarianism, rationalism and all such atheistic replacements for truth abound in the Church. This is a denial of Christianity and ultimate a pagan presupposition.

Peter makes it clear that human beings wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. He confirms the words of Paul. He states the Scripture is not of human origin. He states they were borne or carried along by the Holy Spirit. The word moved is in the passive, meaning they were acted upon rather than being active, in the receiving of the words. They were active in that they spake and their words were written but the were passive in the receiving of the message itself. They were speaking for God, giving His words to the world.

Peter states holy men wrote as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. Paul tells us the Scriptures were God breathed. These two statements eliminate the idea of the writer being people of greater insight and so wrote. It was not a case of intensified religious perceptions. The different styles of the writers tell us they were not simply writing what was dictated to them. Therefore, we are forced to the conclusion, God in inspiring the writers, supplied what they needed, to accurately transmit His word to us. He thereby guaranteed the accuracy of the word.

Paul places all Scripture under the heading of God breathed. Therefore the whole of the Scripture has place and meaning for to-day's Christian. The habit of ignoring, or selecticing specific Scripture, is a denial of its inspiration. We would also conclude from the doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture that it is totally applicable for all time unless the author made adjustments to it. We must therefore treat all Scripture as inspire and valid. We are responsible to live by it and understand it as He has revealed it to us. We cannot change it or modify its instructions. The Author alone has the right to introduce any modifications.

A natural conclusion that flows from the belief in the inspiration of Scripture is infallibility. If it is God breathed and God is the Almighty Creator of all, then He gives us His words without error. If the Bible is not trustworthy when it deals with history, science, or any other matter, then how can we depend upon its trustworthiness, when it deals with spiritual issues? Either God knows all things or He does not. If He does not know all things, we cannot be sure of what He does know. If He knows all things but permitted error in the original writings, then He is party to a deception. Either way His name, character and veracity are slandered. He cannot be trusted if His word cannot be trusted.

Some would have us believe the Bible is infallible concerning faith and practice, but fallible when dealing with history, or other such subject. The problem arises, if the Bible is not true respecting history, salvation is questionable. The plan of redemption developed in history. The eternal truths of Scripture cannot be divorced from history. If those facts are inaccurate the Scriptures become untrustworthy in other areas. If it is wrong in areas we can empirically verify how can it be true in areas of spiritual things?

Denial of inspiration and infallibility of Scriptures is a negative reflection on the character and veracity of God. He has revealed Himself to us as the Great Creator, the One who controls all things, including history. If He did not convey these things to the writers accurately, or He allowed them to write in His name inaccurate things, He is not the God of the Bible.

Consequently we must maintain the presupposition on the inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures. We do not do so without evidence. It is not our purpose to deal with evidences for the veracity of the Bible, but such evidence does exist. We begin with the general knowledge of all mankind for all of history,
God, exists. If He exists, and He communicates with us, then that communication must be trustworthy.

The presupposition the Bible is the only Word of God, leads to the logical conclusion it is authoritative. The Scriptures being the revelation of God to man, lay down the rules of relationship to God, man, and the world around him. It is an absolute standard valid for all time. It never becomes obsolete and must be applied to modern life. The Word of God stands as the unchangeable and supreme Word of God for all time. It is the standard for the attitudes and actions of all human beings. The whole Bible is the standard for human ethics. It is the eternal word of the Unchanging God. It brings His infallible instruction to modern humanity. The Bible including the Old Testament provides God's ethical standard and applies to current situations.

Bible believing Christians who reject the Old Testament as God's standard of ethics are in principle antinomian. The antinomian view leads to liberal theology, or worse, to atheistic, and humanist thinking. God has given the unchangeable law-word. It is as eternal as He is. The requirement to obey God's law cannot be judged by extra-Biblical measurements. The rejection of the law word, because it does not follow our tradition, or because it is out of step with modern feelings and practices, is illegitimate. Tradition, modern feelings and practices must be judged by the unchangeable Word of God. He demands that people in the New Testament era meet the requirements of His holiness. Therefore to reject part of God's revelation is to undermine the authority of His word. We can only safely not observe that which He Himself has abrogated by a higher order. The rejecting of His absolute law, and the substituting of our law in its place, is not only antinomian, it is also humanistic.

The law-word is not a means of salvation, but a revelation of our need of salvation, and a measure of our holiness after salvation. The New Testament makes clear we are justified by faith through the Cross. The works of the law cannot be a way of salvation (Rom.3:20). Neither can the law break the power of sin in a person's life. Using the law as a mode of salvation is legalism. It is our failure to please God by obeying His law that breaks us and brings us to our need of a Saviour.

Salvation writes His law in our hearts. The Law becomes the standard of our obedience and love for God. It reveals the requirements of God upon our lives and calls us to fulfill them. It defines sin and exposes our falling short of the just demands of God. It becomes our guide in sanctification. It brings us to dependence upon the work of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, in order to walk holy before the Lord.

Liberal Christian (?) theologians, who refuse to accept the validity of the Scripture for today, are not Biblical monotheists. Rejecting the Scriptures as the Word of God applicable today, demonstrates their humanistic leanings and denies their theistic presuppositions. Antinomians, denying the validity of the law of God are in the same category. The question must be asked, if God's law is not valid for us today then whose law is? Rejection of God's law leads directly to the establishment of another god, a new source of law and consequently a new religion.

When man sets him self up as the judge of the Word of God he becomes a judge of God. Therefore

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1 Pet. 1:25  25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

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

2 Jer.31:33  But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the L ORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

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he becomes a higher god than the Almighty. He determines which parts of the Word are applicable to the modern world. The determination is not made on the basis of what has been revealed but by the reasonings of his human mind. Applied to civil life, if the civil laws of the Old Testament do not apply to government today, we are left with the position of cultural relativism.

The objection to applying the laws of God to a modern society often rests on shaky ground. The principle of the law of God is given in its application in ancient Israel. It is foolish to attempt to condemn the application of the law on the basis of a changed society."³ The law in Deut. 22:8 concerning protective railing around the edges of the flat roof (used for entertaining) does not apply to our modern peaked roof dwellings. The principle is providing safety in dangerous situations. A fence placed around a swimming pool or excavation would be applying it in a modern situation. It is true not all laws are this easily applied. However, if we have the basic underlying presupposition of God's Word and Law is for today, we can come to the right application of the principle. Solutions to complex moral problems presented by the computer age, and genetic altering society, requires diligent effort, in sanctified reasoning and careful Scriptural exegesis. There will be differences of opinion but if the basis is God's law rather than vain human speculations we are headed in the right direction.⁴

Textual criticism has done much to undermine the authority of Scripture in the minds of some. Textual criticism has a proper role to play as long as it is seek to dig out what God originally revealed through the writer. Higher criticism, as it is called, seems to have the purpose of destroying and undermining the validity of Scriptpure. Such criticism becomes skepticism with atheistic underpinnings. It should not be called Christian in any sense of the word.

The presupposition the Bible is the Word of God means the individual seeks to live his life by its precepts. Christians who do not strive to live by the instructions of the Bible, are in fact denying its inspiration. If it is the Word of God, living, real and inspired, then it must be effective in our lives as our guide for living.

Violating the precepts of the Scripture, because of some subjective feeling, denies the Scriptures as the Word of God. The excuse the Holy Spirit led me is a pharisical cover up for a rebellious attitude. It is judging the Word by some internal standard the individual has established for himself. The Holy Spirit does not contradict Himself. He will not tell the person to do or be something which He has forbidden in Scripture.

The Scripture becomes the infallible guide in all areas of life. Something that is seen as sin in the Old Testament is also sin in New Testament times. God does not change. Those things that offend in one age will offend Him in all ages. Homosexuality, as an example, is an abomination to God according to the law He gave through Moses. It is still an abomination today. Atheistic humanism acceptance of it does not

³ "Apart from the Old Testament law, and the entire Bible, the "leading of the spirit" is ultimately heretical, and therefore, deadly evil - and potentially totalitarian. No scholar has ever been able to create a system of civil law based on "natural law" that is not arbitrary and constantly changing. Natural law cannot be based on nature because it is capricious and cruel, on human conscience because it is depraved, or on "reason" because it is vitiated by sin." Kevin L. Clauson in God and Politics compiled by Gary Scott Smith page 62

⁴ "Moreover, there is no better political standard to offer than God's law. Without it we are left with either unredressed criminal anarchy or arbitrary and manipulative penalties determined by sinful overlords.: Greg L. Bahnsen in God and Politics compiled by Gary Scott Smith page 50

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change God's mind. Neither should we be influenced by society but rather maintain Biblical standards. The smoke screen charge of homophobia must not deter us from maintaining the Bible standards.

**Lev 18:22** Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination.

**Lev 20:13** If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood [shall be] upon them.

**Rom.1:18,26-28,32** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; (26) For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: (27) And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. (28) And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; (32) Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

The Scriptural instruction in all areas of personal morality and relationship must be the rule. Marriage, home, work and public relationships are to be governed by its laws.

The Bible is God's manual of life. Therefore it governs our relationships in society. Business affairs are to be conducted according the ethics of the Scriptures. Our attitude to the poor is decided by its instruction. Crime and punishment must be in accord with its precepts. The treatment of others and their property is based on the principles learned in its pages.

Politics does not escape its scrutiny. We have discussed elements of this previously so will not return to detain discussion here. Our political philosophy must be Biblical to maintain our presupposition. Whenever a political system or strategy violated the precepts of Scripture, it must be rejected by those who believe the Bible is the Word of God. The proper role of government is included in its teachings. The Scriptures do not speak in detail concerning every political matter but they contain the principles upon which every political action can be determined. Political activity must be based not on autonomous human ideals and preferences but upon Divine revelation as contained in the Scriptures.

The morality of the Scriptures is the morality of those who hold them to be the only Word of God. Public or community morality must follow the same guidelines. The high standards of the Bible should be expected of public persons. Non-Christian political leaders need to be judged according to their adherence to the moral codes established by God. It does not say they can be saved in this manner but that they are expected to demonstrate a life of high moral quality. If they do not, they cease to be qualified for public office.

Leadership within the Christian community must maintain the highest of standards. The Church is to be the demonstration of Christ in the community. Therefore its leaders should display His quality in their life and leadership. The world should be able to look at the Church and its leaders and see an example of true Biblical standards leadership. The church would then have the prophetic voice in the world God intended it to have.
Christians can claim to hold to the Bible as the only Word of God. They must demonstrate that belief in their actions. The theological position is destroyed if one's actions betray another presupposition. Deliberate and intention violation of the precepts of Scripture shows a presupposition of another authority, rather than Scripture.