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The scriptures Pt 2 – their purpose

We previously established that God spoke, His words were written down, and those writings are known as scripture or holy scripture. God's words are pure, perfect, holy and are a record of His truth. In this teaching we establish that God's words, the holy scriptures, are useful for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

Scriptures that establish this teaching.

1. All scripture is useful for reproof and correction.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God...is profitable for doctrine, for reproof" (2Tim.3: 16). Compare (c.p). – "Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the Lord [is] against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant" (Zeph.2: 5).

C.p "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort" (2Tim 4:2).

Therefore, we say that whether God Almighty spoke directly to the rebellious house of Israel, or through a prophet, or a scribe, or a priest read from the book of the law (the Old Testament scriptures), or the Lord Jesus speaks, their words are useful for reproof, and are the sole authority for correction (see Jesus' example: "ye do err, not knowing the scriptures" – Matt.22: 29).

2. All scripture is useful for instruction in righteousness.

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

C.p. "Will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my words? saith the Lord" (Jer.35: 13).

Additional comments to the supporting scriptures.

The source of a man's correction, instruction, and reproof is what he holds to be his authority. The police instruct, correct and reprove on the basis of the law. The teacher instructs from the text books, and parents instruct and correct their children based on what they agree on as a couple.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

Society sets up laws from which teachers provide instruction at schools. For a lost man those laws become the framework for establishing right and wrong.

Today parents send their children to school and are taught that if a male or female chose a sodomite relationship they are not doing wrong because a sodomite is born "that way".

So when a preacher gets asked on the street: what does he think of homosexuality, he can now be shown from the law of the land to be wrong. And if he personally attacks the sodomite, as one preacher did when he told a sodomite to go commit suicide, he is seen as being discriminatory.

A question to think about.

– why do Christians today, when asked about the right and wrong of sodomy, or any other topic, not quote what their God says, given that they believe Him, and place their trust in His word?

My answer to our question.

If a Christian does not have a copy of "the holy scriptures", or is happy to use any one of the 200+ different corrupt versions of scripture then he would not be as motivated to read them, understand them, nor apply them to his daily life, because he only has God's message, NOT His pure, perfect, preserved words. Therefore, when asked any question a Christian that does not have the scriptures tends to give their own point of view as they do not know what God would say.

BUT when a man has a copy of the scriptures, and reads them, meditates on them (Ps.1: 1 & 2), then, and only then, is he equipped to answer such questions with "according to the scriptures God says".

And IF the instruction "pricked in their heart" (Acts 2: 37) then the result is often similar to the example in the scriptures where "the people wept, when they hear the words of the law" (Neh.8: 9). WHY? Because the hearer is convicted by the holy Spirit after hearing the words of God.

The purpose of the scriptures is to provide reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.