

21 August 2016

The scriptures Pt 3 – 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, they are useful for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. In this teaching we establish that God's words, the holy scriptures, are also useful for doctrine (teaching), some is sound doctrine for this age and some is not.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. All scripture is useful for doctrine (teaching).

"All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine" (2Tim 3:16). Compare (C.p.) "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures?" (Mt.21: 42). See also 1Tim 6:2.

The Lord Jesus and Paul used the scriptures for teaching. The scriptures were their authority for teaching what is good and what is evil, God's plan for His kingdom, and His plan for salvation. When the Lord Jesus Christ taught His disciples He specifically excluded the traditions of man that made "the word of God of none effect" (Mk.7: 13), that contradicted the scriptures.

2. Good doctrine for today is from the writings of Paul.

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained" (1Tim 4:6).

C.p. "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith..." (2Tim.3: 10).

With certainty we say that **all** doctrine from the epistles that Paul wrote to the churches (Romans through to Philemon) are "good doctrine" for the churches today.

Additional comments on our two points.

All scripture is useful for doctrine and for teaching, although some is clearly "good doctrine" for another age, like the books of the law, Genesis to Deuteronomy.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

The purpose of the scriptures is their usefulness for doctrine, for teaching today. And so our children learn from their parents that the heavens and the earth were made by God according to the scriptures. They then go to school and are taught the theory that our earth evolved from a blip to be what it is today, and that man evolved from monkeys. Such instruction, such "scientific theory" makes "the word of God of none effect" (Mk.7: 13) – see "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding...oppositions of science falsely so called" (1Tim.6: 20).

A question to think about.

BUT for those who pick up the scriptures and read from the Old Testament through to the end of the New Testament without instruction would stop at almost every page in the Old Testament and ask: "Does this apply to me?" Our example from Ezekiel requires more thought when answering our question: "But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, [and] doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked [man] doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die" (Ez.18: 24).

My answer to our question.

IF the doctrine, the instruction you read in the scriptures contradicts Paul's 13 epistles to this the church age, which the scriptures say are "good doctrine" for this age, then such doctrine was "good doctrine" for another age and not this one. And in this age "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Rom.10: 3), and our verse from Ezekiel says if a righteous man sin, all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned, he shall die in his sin.