

Remnant Life Church
September 8, 2019
The Word of God:
The Writing
I Cor 1:26-31

We know that the Bible is like no other work ever written in the history of literature

- The way it was written
- The way it has survived through the centuries
- No other book has had the amount of hatred set against it like the Bible
- Examples of efforts down through history to destroy the Word -
 - In 303 AD (just a little more than 200 after the last disciple, John died – Roman Emperor Diocletian attempted to rid the world of every Bible and actually came to believe that he had accomplished his objective
 - After many years of slaughter, intimidation, and threats he erected a statue over the embers of burned Bibles
 - The inscription on the monument read, “Extinct is the Name of Christian”
 - 20 years later following his death, the new Emperor Constantine offered a reward for any remaining Bibles, and in less than 24 hours over 50 copies were brought to him
 - John Wycliffe (early to mid-1300’s translated the Vulgate to English) and William Tyndale (Early 1500’s first English translation of the bible drawing directly from the Hebrew and Greek texts)
 - Both involved in the reformation as well as early Bible translation were persecuted their entire lives
 - Tyndale was martyred at the age of 36
 - Wycliff had his body exhumed and his corpse burned have been declared a heretic
 - Mary Queen of England in the mid-1500’s ordered any person found with a Bible was to be burned
 - She was dead within 5 years
 - Elizabeth I, who succeeded her, ordered no less than 130 editions of the Bible published – she ruled for the next 45 years
 - Russian leaders Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, and Leonid Brezhnev all espoused atheism and hostility toward Christianity and the worship of God
 - A very interesting account of how the Bible still penetrates the human soul in even the darkest of times
 - 1982 President Regan sent VP George Bush to Moscow to represent the US at Brezhnev’s funeral. Long line of mourners following, what Bush reported to be a very dark, depressing, and morbid service – the last to view the body was Brezhnev’s wife
 - She stood staring at him for several moments as the VP watched, and then to Bush’s shock and amazement, she quickly made the sign of the cross, then hurried away from the coffin.

- There has been a continual attempt to either destroy or ban God's Word completely, yet the Bible continues in all its authority and power
 - The visitor touring the workplace of a blacksmith observed a heap of discarded and chipped hammers in one corner but only one large anvil in the center of the shop. "How often do you need replace the anvil?" he inquired. "Never" came the reply from the blacksmith, "you see, its the anvil that wears out the hammer."
 - The hammers of persecution, ridicule, higher criticism, and atheism have been beating against the anvil of the Word of God for centuries – all to no avail
 - The hammers of each of these is heaped in a pile while the mighty anvil of God's Word stands unbroken, unshaken, and unmoved.

How did the Bible come to be written?

- We believe that the 66 books of the Bible are the inspired Word of God, through the authorship of man, to impact the life of His creation.
 - In other words, both God and man were involved in the writing
 - Called dual-authorship
 - This means that God not only assigned man responsibilities in the writing, but He assigned them to Himself as well

God's responsibilities in the impartation of Scripture

1. Revelation – the process by which God revealed to man those facts and truths they could not have known on their own
 - a. *Deut 29:29 - The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.*
 - b. Only God could have given the revelation to Moses about the beginning of the universe
 - c. Certainly, there would have been some records of history prior to Moses' time but it was God guiding his hand and providing the revelation that established the doorway into the Bible of those first 5 books

2. Inspiration – where God ensures that His revelations were correctly written down by the human writers
 - a. *Deut 4:2 - Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.*
 - b. Caution to those books that claim they have "new" revelation of the Bible that no one has ever uncovered
 - i. There is always new work being done
 - ii. Clearer understanding as theologians work together
 - iii. But the canon or writings of God's Word are closed – meaning nothing will be added
 - c. Especially weary if this revelation is associated it with a donation or gift to their ministry

3. Illumination – God continually sheds light and understanding on ALL those who read His inspired revelation
 - i. Understanding God’s Word is NEVER reserved for a select group of people or persons!
 - ii. This understanding is for the person who is hungry after the things of God for their own lives

READ - I Cor 1:26-31

- b. **Psalm 119:105** - *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*
 - c. God’s Word lights EVERYONE’S path
 - d. A person who claims to have special enlightenment and illumination of the Scripture due to their intellect or study is being led by their ego not godly revelation and that will always result in a fall
 - e. **Dan 4:37** - ... *and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*
4. Canonization – the process by which God determined the divinely inspired (and only those books) to be included among the 66
 - a. Much debate and discussion
 - b. Not so much with the OT (by 250 AD most scholars and early church fathers universally accepted the books)
 - c. NT underwent much more discussion as the authors were present-day from the time of the Gospels through to Paul

The first “canon” was the Muratorian Canon compile in AD 170

- 22 of the 27 NT books omitting **Hebrews, James, 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John**
- The Council of Laodicea in 363 AD declared the OT books and most of the NT books (excluding **Revelation**)
 - NOTE – the council also banned 41 writings and book including Paul’s letters to the **Ephesians, Philippians, and Romans**
 - Why were those books accepted later?
 - No answer to that question other than God’s direction
- The Council of Hippo (393) and the Council of Carthage (397) included the book of **Revelation** with the others
 - In the span of 35 years, three councils convened to deal with the question of canonicity
- One important aspect of what the councils did was to formulate guidelines in order for a written work to be included in the NT -
 1. Was it written by a disciple of Jesus or someone with close ties to the original disciples?
 2. Was the work widely accepted by the church at large in that time?
 3. Was there consistency in the doctrine and orthodox teaching?
 4. Did the writing bear witness to the moral and ethical teaching and values that would reflect the work of the HS?

- What must be remembered is that people or the church did not determine the books of the Bible, God did
- Those that question the process do so on the strength of an argument centered on human intellect only removing God from the process

(Revelation; Inspiration; Illumination; Canonization)

5. Preservation – God has worked in both the natural and supernatural to preserve His Word from the ravages of time, and the intent of Satan to destroy it through the evil intentions of man.

In all of this process, God used many ways to communicate the Scripture

1. He spoke directly
 - a. The Patriarchs (Adam, Noah, Abraham)
 - b. The Great leaders of the people (Moses, Joshua, Samuel)
 - c. The Kings (David and Solomon)
 - d. The Prophets (from Daniel and Isaiah to Zechariah and Malachi)
2. He spoke through Angels (His messengers)
 - a. Abraham ([Gen 18](#))
 - b. Gabriel to Daniel about the coming tribulation ([Dan 9:21-27](#))
 - c. Gabriel spoke to both Zacharias and Mary about the impending birth of John the Baptist and Jesus ([Luke 1](#))
 - d. Angels announced the birth of Jesus ([Luke 2](#))
 - e. An angel directed both Philip and Peter out of prison ([Acts 8, 12](#))
3. He spoke through signs and miracles
 - a. Moses and the burning bush ([Ex 3:1-4](#))
 - b. Gideon and the fleece ([Judg 6:36-40](#))
4. He spoke through dreams
 - a. Solomon received wisdom and a warning ([I Kgs 3:5; 9:2](#))
 - b. Joseph in the NT assured of Mary's purity and warned about King Herod's plan to kill Jesus ([Matt 1:20; 2:13](#))
5. He spoke through visions throughout both the Old and New Testaments
6. He even spoke through a donkey's mouth ([Num 22:28](#))
7. He spoke through a still, small voice to Elijah hiding in a cave ([I Kings 19:11-12](#))

God could and still does speak to us in these same ways
 But no more powerfully than through His precious Word