

Remnant Life Church

September 15, 2019

The Word of God:

Authority – Pt 1

2 Kings 5:1-16

When we speak of the Bible, we describe it in many different ways

- The Word of God
- A light for the path of our life (Ps 119:105)
- We said last week it is revealed by God, inspired by God, and preserved by God
- It is inerrant – meaning it is without error
- It is infallible meaning it leads us to the conclusion of what God desires for us
- And it is the authority of our lives

It is the authority of His Word that I want us to look at this morning.

- We must begin by acknowledging that the Word of God and the God of the Word cannot be scientifically studied or analyzed in a laboratory in order to declare its truth
 - The Divine Creator still demands and desires faith on the part of His creation
- If a person totally and absolutely rejects faith in God, then the Bible will have no meaning to them
 - They are then confined to live within the restraints of their small and limited minds

Another aspect of the authority of God's Word often said is the sufficiency of the Bible

- What does that mean?
- The Bible is sufficient (or complete) in all the words necessary for faith and life
- It is not the Bible plus...anything else

Sufficient for Faith

- *2 Tim 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...*
- God's Word provides for us the foundational doctrine of our lives
- What should our faith look like?
- It not only tells us who God is, but how He deals and interacts in our lives with us
- It may not tell us everything we wish to know, but it does tell us everything God desire for us to know

Sufficient for Life

- *2 Tim 3:17 - ...so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- The Bible contains not only all that we need to be saved but also all we need for how to live

What is meant by the authority of the Bible?

- Theologian, author, and scholar Millard Erickson describes it like this:
- “The Bible, as the expression of God’s will to us, possesses the right supremely to define what we are to believe and how we are to conduct ourselves.”
 - Is this not at the very heart of the struggle between the spirit and the flesh that Paul addresses in **Romans 8**?
 - The spirit is wholly and completely dependent on God while the flesh desires independence

What does the Bible have authority over in the life of a believer?

1. Authority over human reason

- a. God created each of us with a mind, with desires, and the ability to think
- b. This is, of course, true for everyone both Christian and non-Christian alike
 - i. **Isa 1:18** - *“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.*
 1. God is speaking through the prophet to those who don’t know Him as God
 2. We are all born the same (in sin – **Ps 51:5**) but we are changed when we surrender our lives to God and ask Jesus to come into our hearts
 - ii. **Rom 12:1-2** - *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
 1. Our minds, our thinking is changed as a child of God
 2. Not the same as those who do not know Him
 3. This is why our actions, our words, our hearts should be different than the worlds’
- c. But there are times when God will desire for us to submit or surrender our reasoning to Him
 - i. **Prov 3:5-7** - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.*
 - ii. Our reasoning, our thinking, our expectations are more often than not very different from God’s thinking
 - iii. The story of Naaman the leper...

READ - 2 Kings 5:1-16

- iv. The will of God, the healing of God was contrary to the sensibilities and thinking of Naaman

- v. How many blessings of God do we miss simply because we are not willing to surrender our thinking, our minds, and our reasoning to God?
- vi. Is this not at the very core of the definition of faith?

2. Authority over the church

- a. The birth of the church was recorded in the second chapter of Acts
- b. The life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is what founded the church and He is the head (Eph 1:22; 2:19-20; 4:15-16; 5:23-30; Col 1:18, 2:9)
 - i. Not the other way around!
 - ii. Too many in the church believe that Christ is there to serve the church rather than the church to serve Christ
- c. Because of this, the Christian and the church itself must look to the Bible for instruction, direction, and guidance – not to itself!
- d. No man-made element, no matter how spiritual it sounds, can replace or usurp the authority of the Bible
- e. Of the 7 churches addressed by God in the book of Revelation, 5 of them had lost their way

3. Authority over church leaders

- a. *Heb 13:7, 17 - Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith; ⁽¹⁷⁾ Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.*
- b. This only applies if the leader is submitted to the authority of the Word of God in their own lives
- c. Great harm has been done by church leaders allowing pride and ego to step into places they do not belong
- d. NO MINISTER should ever dictate to the people of their church how they should think or how they should live
 - i. Our responsibility is to teach what is clearly taught in the Bible
 - ii. Direct people to Jesus and Jesus alone
- e. As soon as that leader steps into a different role than that, they are in the sin of manipulation and control
 - i. Now it is no longer a church, but a cult
 - ii. This is why we will never hold to people at RLC
- f. The pastor is, very simply, to be a godly role model for people to desire to live like Christ, not the person