

WAY TO SHILOH

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WHAT IS YOUR AUTHORITY?

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death.

(Proverbs 14: 12)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

(Psalm 119: 1)

One of the strangest quirks in the nature of men and women is seen in the amount of time, energy, opinion and assertion that is put forth with regard to their relationship towards their God in heaven, without once referring to the only authority that can give them a right understanding of that relationship. Even a tin of household paint gets more attention, for, invariably, the printed instructions are read before the job on hand is undertaken. Yet, in the matter of the eternal well-being of his soul, this human-being is prepared to trust to his own estimations, opinions and ingenuities without ever turning to the Word of God which is the only source in all the world that can instruct him in the manner of eternal life. Regardless of human opinion, the Bible speaks of a way that leads to heaven and a way that leads to hell - the way of God and a way of the devil; a narrow road that leads to life everlasting and a broad road that leads to destruction. It never speaks of neutrality; we are either, "with" Christ, or "against" Him. It will tell YOU and all of us where we really stand in relationship to this One true God.

Divine revelation: The Bible, and that which is revealed in the light of nature, is nothing else but beams of the infinite wisdom of God for the guiding of mankind into happiness and glory. The light of nature helps somewhat, though it does not reach far enough. The light of nature is made up of several beams of God's wisdom, but the light of the Word (the Bible) is made up of beams of wisdom a great deal more than the beams of nature. Now any sinner that forsakes the ways of God rejects these beams of wisdom as if they were dark.

CHOICE WORDS OF C.H.SPURGEON

Let us hear a little of Spurgeon's view of the Bible as expressed in a sermon preached in 1855, at Exeter Hall, when he was three months short of his twenty-first birthday. The text of the sermon was, 'I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing' (Hosea 8.12).

'First, my friends, stand over this volume, and admire its authority. This is no common book. It is not the sayings of the sages of Greece; here are not the utterances of philosophers of past ages. If these words were written by man, we might reject them; but oh, let me think the solemn thought - that this book is God's handwriting, that these are God's words.

'Let me look at its date, it is dated from the hills of Heaven. Let me look at its letters; they flash glory on my eye. Let me read the chapters: they are big with meaning and mysteries unknown. Let me turn over the prophecies: they are pregnant with unthought-of wonders.

'Oh, book of books! And wast thou written by my God? Then will I bow before thee. Thou book of vast authority, thou art a proclamation from the Emperor of Heaven; far be it from me to exercise my reason in contradicting thee. Reason! thy place is to stand and find out what this volume means, not to tell what this book ought to say.

'Come thou, my reason, my intellect, sit thou down and listen, for these words are the very words of God. I do not know how to enlarge on this thought. Oh! if you could ever remember that this Bible was actually and really written by God! Oh! if ye had been let into the secret chambers of Heaven, if ye had beheld God grasping His pen and writing down these letters, then surely ye would respect them. But they are just as much God's handwriting as if you had seen God write them.'

'Then, since God wrote it, mark its truthfulness. If I had written it, there would be worms of critics who would at once swarm on it, and would cover it with their evil spawn. Had I written it, there would be men who would pull it to pieces at once, and perhaps quite right too. But this is the Word of God; come, search, ye critics, and find a flaw; examine it from its Genesis to its Revelation, and find an error.

'This is a vein of pure gold, unalloyed by quartz, or any earthy substance. This is a star without a speck; a sun without a blot; a light without darkness; a moon without its paleness; a glory without a dimness. O Bible! it cannot be said of any other book, that it is perfect and pure; but of thee we can declare all wisdom is gathered up in thee, without a particle of folly.

'This is the judge that ends the strife where wit and reason fail. This is the book untainted by any error; but it is pure, unalloyed, perfect Truth. Why? Because God wrote it...Oh ye who dislike certain portions of the Holy Writ, rest assured that your taste is corrupt, and that God will not stay for your little opinion. Your dislike is the very reason why God wrote it, because you ought not to be suited; you have no right to be pleased. God wrote what you do not like; He wrote the Truth.

'Oh! let us bend in reverence before it, for God inspired it. It is pure Truth. Here from this fountain gushes aqua vitae - "the water of life" - without a single particle of earth; here from this sun cometh forth rays of radiance, without the mixture of darkness. Blessed Bible; thou art all Truth.'

Inexhaustible Truth

Let us hear for a moment something from his last great conference address. Thus he spoke:

'After preaching the Gospel for forty years, and after printing the sermons I have preached for more than six-and-thirty years, reaching now the number of twenty-two hundred in weekly succession, I am fairly entitled to speak about the fullness and richness of the Bible, as a preacher's book. Brethren, it is inexhaustible.

'No question about freshness will arise if we keep closely to the text of the sacred volume. There can be no difficulty as to finding themes totally distinct from those we have handled before; variety is as infinite as the fullness. A long life will only suffice us to skirt the shores of this great continent of light.

'In the forty years of my own ministry I have only touched the hem of the garment of divine Truth; but what virtue has flowed out of it! The Word is like its Author, infinite, immeasurable, without end. If you were ordained to be a preacher throughout eternity, you would have before you a theme equal to everlasting demands. Brothers, shall we each have a pulpit somewhere amidst the spheres?

'Shall we have a parish of millions of leagues? Shall we have voices so strengthened as to reach attentive constellations? Shall we be witnesses for the Lord of grace to myriads of worlds which will be wonder-struck when they hear of the incarnate God? Shall we be surrounded by pure intelligences enquiring and searching into the mystery of God manifest in the flesh?

'Will the unfallen worlds desire to be instructed in the glorious Gospel of the blessed God? And will each one of us have his own tale to tell of our experience of infinite love? I think so, since the Lord has saved us "to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." If such be the case, our Bibles will suffice for ages to come: for new themes every morning, and for fresh songs and discourses world without end.'