

## Does the Bible Have Authority? By Trey Sullins

“Does the Bible have authority” is a common question asked by people today. Although many do not know the answer to the question, it is important that all come to an understanding about the answer. The Bible is the only true source of salvation and hope for people. Therefore, people must realize that the Bible does have authority so that they can know where their instruction is to come from in their lives.

In order to discuss Bible authority people must understand from where the authority comes. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the Bible explains “all scripture is given by inspiration of God.” The word “inspiration” means God breathed, so the Bible is the literal breath of God. Because the Bible was given by God who has all authority, the Bible has authority. If the Bible is God breathed, then certainly it only makes sense that the Bible has authority. Otherwise, what purpose would there be for God to have created the Bible? If there was no authority in the Bible, then God would not have needed men to record it.

The Christian must also understand how the Bible received this authority. In the Bible there is a specific path through which the Bible receives its authority. That path of Bible authority starts with God who breathed the words to be written. After God, Matthew 28:18 says that Jesus was given all authority. With this authority, Jesus went around teaching and preaching to people. Next Jesus gave the authority to the apostles (John 16:13). The Spirit of truth guided the apostles, but it was also the teachings of Jesus, as the apostles were with Him, which helped their understanding. After the death of Jesus, the apostles traveled around teaching and preaching. The apostles also wrote the New Testament so that Christians may understand the mystery of Christ (Ephesians 3:1-5) for generations to come.

After understanding the Bible’s authority, God’s people must know that the Bible is true. Because God gave the Bible authority, the words that it contains must be true. It is by this truth that Christians must live and by this truth that Christians will be judged (Romans 2:2). People need to hear the truth first so that they might trust in Jesus and live their lives right. Romans 2:8 explains that the sinful do not live by the truth as they should. It is also evident that Christians should only do things to further the truth, rather than hinder the truth (2 Corinthians 13:8).

Once Christians understand the Bible has authority, they must align with the Bible. Again in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the reason the Bible was given is for man to be complete and equipped. In 2 Peter 1:20, the Bible is not to be interpreted in any way that people want. Based on this verse and others, Christians can know that there is a right way which they should live. Colossians 3:16 explains that everything men do must be done by the authority of Christ. The Christian life must be lived in such a way that everything they do is acceptable to Christ. Those who do not follow the Bible and God do not have God and the blessings He gives. On the other hand, those who do follow God and the Bible have God and His blessings (2 John 1:9). It is essential that all Christians understand the Bible’s authority because it is the only true path to following God properly.

As followers of God, Christians must know and believe that the Bible has authority. Given by God and recorded for us through the apostles, the scriptures are the only tool available today which teaches people how to live. Because of the Bible’s authority comes directly from God, Christians

can know it is the truth. Therefore, Christians must live their lives according to the Bible as it contains the only true path to salvation. It is necessary that every Christian be able to answer the question “does the Bible have authority,” so that they can give proper defense of the scriptures.