

TEACHING GOAL

To establish that while the Bible contains concrete history and makes some scientific and philosophical statements, its substance is theological and ethical.

DOCTRINAL STANDARDS

Q. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning god and what duty God requires of man.

S.C. 3; L.C. 5; W.C. of F. I:VI; Savoy 1:6; Young 14

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Study Passage: II Timothy 3:14-17

Support Passages: Matthew 22:23-46; John 5:30-47, 15:3,
17:17, 18:37; II Peter 1:16-21; I John
1:1-3

BIBLE STORY

Acts 8:26-39; What the Ethiopian official read in the Bible led to his conversion and to saving faith in Christ.

MEMORY ASSIGNMENT

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,"

(2 Timothy 3:16, ESV)

APPLICATION

In order that people may be saved and know how to live lives that are pleasing to God, the Scriptures must be taught.

SUMMARY

While the bible is not a textbook on Science, nevertheless, scientific information in Scripture is perfectly accurate. In like manner the Bible contains much information of a historical nature which is also perfectly true. In the previous lesson our concern was the unique value of Scripture, however, this present lesson deals with the nature of its content. When we read Scripture, what do we expect to find there? The answer is, of course, truth. This is the Lord's own estimation of the Word of God and His own personal revelation of it.¹ This means, of course, that all its statements, regardless of the category of learned discipline to which they apply, are true.

Nevertheless we cannot ignore the main thrust of the Bible. All its statements and information are God given and God directed and either convey to men that nature of God which He desires us to know or that godly set of ethics by which we are to live. Furthermore, God has not given all knowledge of Himself to mankind neither has He given us all knowledge of godliness, yet we possess in Scripture alone all that God is pleased for us to know. Indeed, we have more than sufficient knowledge to be saved and to live godly pious lives, and we have known the sacred writings which are able to give us the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus -- equipping us for every good work.

Robert L. Whitelaw, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, commenting on I John 1:1-3 wrote as follows: " A fashionable notion of our time is that it is possible, at one and the same time, for a Christian to keep his 'faith' and accept without question whatever 'science' says. A man remembers a Bible that speaks of a personal, holy God, of His supernatural works of creation, providence and judgment, and of a supernatural, risen Christ who testifies to the truth of that record. He also sees a world of unprecedented scientific knowledge and achievement whose high priests assure him there is no such God, and that all things came about over billions or trillions of years by chance combination of matter and energy. The Christian answer is at least three fold.

(1) The denial of an event plainly described in the Bible is not merely contradicting an obscure Bible writer; it is a challenge to the resurrection authority of Christ Himself as God manifest in human form. He unequivocally endorsed Moses, Abraham, Noah, as historical people; and the creation of Adam and Eve as the first human pair, the destruction of the entire earth at the Flood, and the cataclysm upon Sodom and Gomorrah, as historical events. If He knew that these were but picture-people and picture-stories (as the new system would have us believe), and yet encouraged His hearers in believing they were historical, then He becomes party to deceit and ceased being a sinless Savior.

(2) No matter how skillful man may be in measuring and observing his world, wherever his conclusions have ethical implications, i.e. wherever they touch upon God's sovereignty, man's corruption and bondage to Satan, and God's plan of salvation, fallen man always comes to false conclusions. His understanding is darkened, and professing himself to be wise he makes himself a fool.²

(3) Any man who is both a scientist and a Christian must apply to any new finding or theory in the realm of science the following tests: (a) Does it bear upon any clearly identified events or persons or times in the Biblical record? If so, it must conform to what Scripture teaches or be rejected. (b) Does it have ethical implications as to God's sovereignty, man's sinfulness, Christ's Deity, or God's plan of salvation and final judgment? If it does, and it denies Scripture on such points, then it may be expected to teach false conclusions in the natural realm as well! The answer is yes!"

¹ John 15:3, 17:17, 18:37

² Rom. 1, I Cor. 1-3, Eph. 4, etc.