



On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

Vol XV No.1

January/February 2007

Editors Note#

This issue of “On The Frontier” contains a compilation of articles written for our local newspaper “The Frontiersman.” By doing this we wish to give you, the reader, an idea of how news-media may be utilized to further the Gospel. Hopefully this will inspire you to pursue your local resources for the same purpose.

The Gravity of Today

A new year has begun and with it the motivation to start afresh. When I was a child, the “do-over” offered similar benefits. However, in real life one seldom gets to do things over. Consequence and memory must be dealt with. Thankfully, God promises a fresh start for all who accept His Son as Savior and Lord. The former signifying deliverance the latter obedience.

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (1995 Revised Webster Bible)

A clean slate! This truth gives us the promise of new life. Your past is not held against you and cannot hold you back. You can hold your head up high and walk with dignity. Condemnation and guilt need plague you no longer

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. (1901 Authorized Standard Version)

If you are a Christian and are experiencing condemnation, you can be sure it isn't from God. It may come from your friends, family or even yourself, but NEVER from God or His Son!

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (1769 Authorized Version)

Isn't that marvelous! God's not mad at you, He loves you! You know, as a boy, I had a writing pad that could be erased and re-written upon indefinitely. The pad was made of a soft grey clay-like substance that you could write upon with a wooden stylus. To completely erase the pad you simply lifted a plastic sheet. A black or white board is principally the same as you can completely erase either at any time. But to be able to do this with one's life! Wow!

God is the prime mover, He took the first step [John 3:16&17]. The next step is yours. Live as God would have you to live.

Romans 6:4

Well, then, we by our baptism were buried with Him in death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from among the dead by

the Father's glorious power, we also should live an entirely new life. (1912 Weymouth NT translation)

Romans 6:10&11

Death has no longer any power over Him. For by the death which He died He became, once for all, dead in relation to sin; but by the life which He now lives He is alive in relation to God.

In the same way you also must regard yourselves as dead in relation to sin, but as alive in relation to God, because you are in Christ Jesus. (1912 Weymouth NT translation)

When thinking of the new year and those resolute to start anew, I'm reminded of this poem:

Two Days We Should Not Worry

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is Yesterday with all its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.

Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back Yesterday.

We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said.

Yesterday is gone forever.

The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow with all its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and its poor performance; Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control.

Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow, for it is yet to be born.

This leaves only one day, Today. Any person can fight the battle of just one day. It is when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities Yesterday and Tomorrow that we break down.

It is not the experience of Today that drives a person mad, it is the remorse or bitterness of something which happened Yesterday and the dread of what Tomorrow may bring.

Let us, therefore, Live but one day at a time. - Author Unknown

We live in an eternal now! Time will not wait for us. What we do today is what counts. More accurately, what we do this very moment is what will determine our tomorrow.

Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (1769 Authorized Version)

NOW IS YOUR TIME!

January 7, 2007

How We Got The Bible Part One

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
(1769 Authorized Version)

The principle contained in this verse is timeless. Simply put, "there's a time and place for everything." A tenant which proved invaluable to my parenting.

Most would consent to the rationality of seemingly behavior relevant to setting and circumstance. But would they acknowledge where this principle had its genesis? So it is with many things. Man fails to give credit where credit is due.

Be it creation or principle, God is the Author of all. That which is sick or wanting is nothing more than a perversion of something He intended to be healthy and whole. In other words, He did not create the devil.

To find out more about God and His creation, we must go to His Word. The written Word being God's communication of choice.

Psalms 138:2

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.
(1769 Authorized Version)

God's name represents quite a bit! Yet, He has **MAGNIFIED** His Word above all His name! Therefore, His Word is very important to those of us who wish to know Him.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word (*logos*), and the Word (*logos*) was with God, and the Word (*logos*) was God. (1769 Authorized Version)

The Greek word *logos* is from the root of *lego* which means communicate. *Logos* has a two-fold meaning relating to thinking and speaking. Thoughts are gathered together in mind and then expressed in words, either by speaking or writing. This type of communication is a result of reasoned thought. Inward thoughts must be gathered and ordered before they can be reasonably set forth. The English words logic and logical are direct derivations of the Greek word *logos*. God's Word is logical, God's thoughts are logical and His communication to us is logical. Your Bible is the most logical learning tool you have!

God's Word is His heart! His mind and what He thinks. This was with Him in the beginning and as with you, His mind is part of Him. Your thoughts and your heart are a part of you. They are what constitutes who you are. All that God's Word contains was in His mind and with Him in the beginning. What and how He was going to communicate

to man was in His heart from the start.

John 1:14

And the Word (*logos*) was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (1769 Authorized Version)

God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, is the *logos* in the flesh. That is, the ULTIMATE COMMUNICATION of God to man! If you want to know God, you must know Jesus Christ!

John 1:18

No human eye has ever seen God: the only Son, who is in the Father's bosom—He has made Him known. (1912 Weymouth New Testament)

Jesus Christ makes known God and the Bible makes known Jesus Christ. There is no other way to know God! If you want to know God, you must know His Son and if you want to know His Son you must know the Bible. The written or preached Word makes known Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ makes known God. This is logical and reasonable. Where else are you going to find out about God and Jesus Christ?

On what do those who think the Bible is simply the word of man base their faith? History? Religion? Superstition? Tradition? Good feelings? Personal experience? Good works (by whose definition)? None of these are logical nor bear God's approval. None can guarantee truth! History denies Jesus Christ as the Son of God, as most historians view history from a colored perspective. The rest are nothing more than

opinion and unqualified for testimony. None warrant or receive memorable cataloging. They all perish with the using and die with the men who whelped them. If yours is a Christian faith it must be based upon Holy Scripture for only there will you find the testimony and *logos* of God. There is a time and place for everything, now is the time and place to learn how we got this wonderful Word of God!

Colossians 2:18

Let no one defraud you of your prize, priding himself on his humility and on his worship of the angels, and taking his stand on the visions he has seen, and idly puffed up with his unspiritual thoughts. (1912 Weymouth New Testament)

To be continued:

January 21, 2007

How We Got The Bible Part Two

If we are to learn anything about the Bible, we must recognize that the most credible source for this is the Bible. It is foolish to consider outside sources more authoritative on biblical matters than the Bible! As previously noted, God in His great desire to make Himself known chose words as the vehicle.

This concept is introduced in the opening of God's revelation to man.

Genesis 1:3

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. (1769 Authorized Version)

Light is marvelous, something we take for granted. Yet, defining light and its properties has proven difficult even for the most gifted minds. Common place though it may be, God spoke it into existence. Speaking suggests using words. The words found in the Bible are what have revealed the origin of light. In like fashion, all that God had to do to make Earth inhabitable was spoken into existence by His Word.

Genesis 1:6a And God said, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:8a And God called . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:9a And God said, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:10a And God called . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:11a And God said, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:14a And God said, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:20a And God said, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:22a And God blessed them, saying, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:24a And God said, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:26a And God said, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:28 a And God blessed them, and God said unto them, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 1:29a And God said, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

The following corroborates the aforementioned:

Psalms 33:6

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. (1769 Authorized Version)

Hebrews 11:3

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (1769 Authorized Version)

Clearly the importance and power of God's Word can never be overstated! But just how did we get it?

The first premise of consideration follows:

II Peter 1:20-21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy (declaration of God) of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will (*thelema* = wishes, purposes, choice) of man: but holy men of God spake as *they were* moved by the Holy Ghost (holy spirit - no upper case letters in the original and no definite article "the"). (1769 Authorized Version)

Most think of prophecy solely as foretelling the future. That is one aspect, the other is the forth telling of events not future. In other words, prophecy may be either a telling forth of events that have transpired or a forth telling of events which have not yet taken place. It may be easier to simply

think of scriptural prophecy as the declaration of God. That being the case, we must be diligent to remember that God's declaration did not come about by the will of man. The men who put stylus to skin in old time did so as God directed. Not what the men wanted spoken and written but what God wanted spoken and written.

Holy men of God spake as they were moved by holy spirit. God made these men holy by putting His spirit upon them. His spirit is what made the "connection" so that God could speak with them and tell them what He wanted spoken. After speaking, some of the words spoken would be written down. None of the Scripture came about by man's purpose or choice of words. God told these men what to speak and what to write.

To do this meant He would have to communicate to them in accordance with their vocabularies. Otherwise, they would not understand what it was He wanted communicated. This accounts for the differences in language usage among the various books of the Canon. These men were exposed to different levels of education and so would have lessor or greater vocabularies. Nevertheless, God who is able to describe the infinite with the finite is not impeded by a man's vocabulary. Thus, He communicated exactly what He wanted communicated both with the use of limited and extensive vocabularies.

Exodus 17:14a

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this *for* a memorial in a book, and rehearse *it* in the ears of

Joshua: . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

God told Moses what to write and say and Moses wrote and said as God dictated. So it was for every man of God and thus it is found in every word of the Holy Writ!

To be continued:

February 4, 2007

How We Got The Bible Part Three

God's Word is His communication to mankind. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is God's ultimate communication. If you are to know God, you must know Jesus Christ, who in turn makes known God (John 1:18). To know Jesus Christ you must know God's Word. Jesus Christ is the context from Genesis 3:15 to Revelation 22:21. So then, it is the written Word that makes known Jesus Christ and it is Jesus Christ who makes known God.

Responding to the Sadducees' foolish and unlearned questioning, Jesus said:

Matthew 22:29b . . . Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. (1769 Authorized Version)

. . . "You are in error, through ignorance of the Scriptures and of the power of God. (1912 Weymouth)

. . . 'Ye go astray, not knowing the Writings, nor the power of God; . . . (1898 Young's Literal Translation)

. . . You are in error, not having knowledge of the Writings, or of the power of God. (1965 Bible in Basic English)

The Greek manuscripts agree. When you are ignorant of the Scriptures, you go astray.

This cannot be overstated, there's no other way to gain an accurate understanding of God. Those who want to quote Jesus must use the Bible and refrain from preaching personal experience and opinion for truth. If anyone claims to speak of or for God, they must speak His Word. How can any veracity be ascribed to those who choose history over the Bible for spiritual matters? Those who wish to know Jesus and the Father must have God's Word. This is the very reason He gave it. The last articles from this series provided ample documentation to unquestionably authenticate these assertions.

I encourage you to be as the Bereans.

Acts 17:11

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (1769 Authorized Version)

It was the scriptures that they searched. Note the following similarities:

John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (1769 Authorized Version)

Previously we established the authenticity of the Bible as its own commentary. The commentaries of men are only useful and honest if they further what the Bible has to say for itself. What men have to say about God's Word is irrelevant unless they ACCURATELY quote scripture. This humble writer cautions you to be wary of those who claim to be Christian ministers while excluding the Divine Authorship of God's Word. Don't accept statements that are made simply because they are set before you as though they true. Any assertion that is not documented thoroughly can only be taken with "a grain of salt." If taken at all!

In our study of the Bible and how it came to be we must understand that English was not a language spoken in the lands and times of the Bible. Jesus and the Apostles spoke Estrangelo Aramaic. Others spoke Chaldee Hebrew and/or Koine Greek. It's vital we understand that there's a significant difference between the ancient and the modern Greek and Hebrew.

Thus it's important to understand how we got God's Word in the first place. The Bible being our contact with God's Word. I say contact because no Bible version can properly be called THE Word of God. The best we have today are versions and no version can be considered THE Word of God. None should be considered direct translations either, as they are versions.

The Bible wasn't translated into English until Wycliff's handwritten manuscript of 1384. Tedious work by William Tyndale brought the New Testament in

English to print in 1526. Miles Coverdale was the first to have the complete Bible printed in English. But not until 1539 was the "Great Bible" in English authorized for public use. In 1560 the Geneva Bible was printed in English with the addition of numbered verses. The development of English Bible versions continued for many years. Yet we dare not forget the almost 1,600 years that elapsed between penning the last word in Revelation in Koine Greek to the transmission of an English printing in Switzerland.

It's easy to see how biblical truths can be lost, be they accidental or intentional. How we get back to that originally inspired Word of God is by research and study [II Timothy 2:15]. This begins by reading for context and verifying the accuracy of translation. Thus, we gain some understanding of God's original communication and intent.

Psalms 119:162

I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil. (1769 Authorized Version)

To be continued:

February 18, 2007
