

Who Wrote the Bible?

Down through the years there have been those who have doubted the inspiration of the Bible. There are those who look upon the Bible as being nothing more than a dead letter, or some fable, or a group of fables that have been passed on from generation to generation. Others feel that the Bible is but a part of the revelation that is from God, and so on and so on. Many who hold these views claim to be of God but such automatically places them in the category of the modernist or even the infidel.

In considering this question we can be sure that certain men did not have a part in writing the Bible. For instance, we know that the infidel did not write the Bible inasmuch as the Bible condemns such an individual. We read: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Ps. 14:1). Again, we know that the modernist did not write the Bible in that the Bible upholds the virgin birth of Christ, etc. (Matt. 1:18-25). We also know that a denominationalist did not write the Bible because the word reveals that there is but one true church. Paul stated in his day that there was but one body, or one church. (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18). Then too, we know that a Catholic did not write the Bible in that the scriptures nowhere suggest that Peter was ever Pope, or even came near to being the Pope of the church. On the contrary, the Bible teaches that Christ is head of the church and is saviour of the body. (Eph. 5:23). Now we know that these individuals, and many others, did not write the Bible, or have part in writing the Bible, or else they would have penned it to suit their own doctrine, or doctrines. At any rate, we know that such individuals would not have condemned themselves by their own writings. Think seriously about these statements.

If the people mentioned did not write the Bible then who did? Well, the answer is very simple. The Bible itself reveals that inspired men of God took part in this great work. Peter tells us: "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Pet. 1:21). Then the apostle Paul said: "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God." (2 Tim. 3:16). Hence, the Bible is from God. Since such is true, then it is a holy or divine book. The scripture nowhere contradicts itself, but rather agrees', even though a number of inspired men had part in penning, it. Many, many arguments could be given to uphold the Bible as being the pure word of God.

- by J. C. Choate

The Kingdom Is The Church

The first preaching of Jesus is found in Matt. 4:17, "*From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*" The kingdom was near, in regard to time, not distance. He told His disciples, "*Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power*" (Mk. 9:1). Some would see the kingdom arrive in their lifetime.

We learn the kingdom existed in the first century. Paul wrote in Col. 1:13, "*He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.*" When Paul said "*us*" he meant himself and the church at Colossae. Therefore, the kingdom and the church are one and the same.

Today many do not believe the kingdom has come and are awaiting its arrival. This would mean that none of the disciples, Paul, or the brethren at Colossae were in the kingdom. Yet, we have seen that they were. If you are waiting for something to arrive that is already here, you just might miss it all together.

- by Terry Sanders

An Uncertain Sound

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Corinthians 14:8)

In this context the apostle Paul was addressing the use of spiritual gifts in the first century church. The illustration is an obvious one: in a battlefield situation, the trumpeter must give clear signals so that the soldiers will know whether to advance or retreat. In regards to spiritual gifts, Paul was making the case that speaking in tongues (one of the miraculous gifts given by the Holy

Spirit) would not be beneficial if there was no interpreter (another of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit) to explain the message.

While we no longer have the miraculous gifts Paul was discussing, the principle of his illustration has important applications to many pertinent matters. We are concerned that uncertain sounds are emanating from many brethren. Just as the apostle explained, people will not be properly advised, and their correct reaction to spiritual dangers will be lacking. For example:

Social Drinking: Too often we hear brethren who express a disconcerting lack of conviction against all alcoholic consumption. They typically express it this way: "I don't drink, but I'm not sure we can say that it is absolutely wrong to do so." These folks need to realize that their unclear warning will be taken by the weak and the young as a full license to drink alcohol. Good and positive arguments against social drinking are available. Use them, and warn the people!

Dancing: A preacher was reported to have preached a sermon about dancing, and at the conclusion he stated that everyone would just have to make up their own mind if it was sinful or not. You guessed it – all the young people rushed off to the prom. You see, his "uncertain sound" left them unprepared to make a right judgment – in fact it empowered them to make exactly the wrong decision!

Immodest dress: Again, we hear too many of our brethren expressing doubts about standards of modesty. They will be heard to say things like, "I don't think you can draw any absolute lines." They mean, of course, that no one can say for sure if this is too short, too tight, too low cut, etc. The implication is that everyone must just figure it out for themselves. We deny it! The Scriptures give clear teaching on what parts of the body must be covered to avoid "nakedness" – and modesty would keep one far away from those limits. Teach this, and help folks – especially young folks – know how to dress and act as God desires.

We need clear and plain teaching and preaching. We do not need to hear uncertain sounds coming from our pulpits and Bible classes. To put it bluntly, if you don't know or can't be sure, please keep your doubts and reservations to yourself! On the spiritual battlefield we need to hear clear and certain sounds. Think!

- by Greg Gwin