

SERMON: THE RIGHT BOOK FOR ROUGH TIMES

2nd Timothy 3:16-17

(16) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

(17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Introduction

Every Christian knows the importance of the Bible. Of the many gifts God has given us, the Bible points to the most important gift, His only begotten Son, who left the glory of heaven and submitted Himself to a cruel cross to save us from our sins. The Bible is a book for all times and for all occasions. We should especially delve deep into it during these rough and tough times. Let's review what most of us already know about the Bible.

Exposition

1. Reverent & Revered

(No Ordinary Book)

(A Sacred Book)

(It Is God Exhaled)

2. Revelatory & Reliable

It Reveals the Nature of God

It Reveals the Nature of Humans

It Reveals the Plan of Salvation

It Is Settled Forever in Heaven (Psalm 119:89)

It Has No Fine Print (Unlike Many Contemporary Contracts)

3. Redundant & Repetitive (On Purpose)

Linguistic Redundancy

Textual Redundancy

4. Realistic & Relevant

(It Commingles Spirituality with Practicality)

(It Is Timely and Timeless)

5. Rewarding & Reassuring

(It Has an App for Every Situation)

Closing Thoughts

I am going to close with a little ditty that many of us who grew up in the church learned at an early age. I think it is in public domain.

“The B-I-B-L-E,
Yes, that’s the Book for me,
I stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E.”

Give God Glory! Give God All the Glory!

End Notes

1. The Old Testament, especially the Psalms, is full of linguistic redundancy. More than many other languages, Biblical Hebrew, both written and spoken, is prone to ambiguity. Many of the words that refer to different things sound almost alike. The same word can be used to refer to many different things, depending on the context. There were no punctuation marks; they had not been invented. The vowels were not originally written; they were implied. Later on, diacritical marks were added by a group called the Masoretes. Even these dots and small dashes were somewhat confusing. Several of the letters, when written, were very similar in appearance like our original English “p” and “q.” God in His wisdom solved the problem before it became a problem by having them to use linguistic redundancy, which is a form of parallelism. They would say or write something and then say or write the same thing in a slightly different way. Let me give you a simple English example: “Brenda had a baby; Yes, Brenda had an infant.” This would leave no room for ambiguity. You see a lot of this kind of parallelism in the Psalms. God wanted to make sure we would understand His Word.

2. Textual Redundancy is simply the declaration of a principle or concept in more than one place in Scripture. It increases the chances that the important spiritual principles will not be overlooked. For example, you can find “love your neighbor” in Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, the four Gospels, and in Paul’s letters. If there “appears” to be a contradiction in the Scripture, go with the weight of preponderance. Be very careful with an idea that is only found one time in the Bible. It will require further study.

**Copyright © 2020 by James C. Ward
All Rights Reserved**