

And This Will We Do, If God Permits
An Expository Journey through the Epistle to the Hebrews
Chapter 2: God Speaks Now through Jesus
Hebrews 1:1&2
10: God Speaks through Jesus: Part 5

WAOY Friday 01/09/09

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse-by-verse journey through the **Epistle of Hebrews**, and today I want to continue to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** taught about the superior way that God speaks to Man under the New Covenant, by looking at **Hebrews 1:1&2**. Let's read those verses together.

Hebrews 1:1&2

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Now we are continuing to look at what the writer of **Hebrews** is discussing here in these two verses by looking at the various ways that God used to speak to Man under the First Covenant, or the Old Covenant, versus the much more superior way that God speaks to Man through the New Covenant. And last time we were talking about the two sources of Divine Revelation. I want to continue in that vein again today.

As I told you last time, the Bible teaches that there are two ways or two sources of Divine Revelation. These are the two methods by which God reveals Himself to Mankind. The first type of Revelation is what is called "General Revelation". General Revelation is God's own Creation itself. Last time we were introduced to the second type of Revelation and that is what is called "Special" or "Specific Revelation", which is the sixty-six Books of the Holy Bible. And last time we were going over what the Bible means when it says in **2 Timothy 3:16&17**:

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

And we saw last time how by using the word “inspiration”, the Apostle Paul was saying that Scripture is the most unique body of Words that the world has ever known. They are the only Words that were exhaled or “breathed out” by God. And by extension, *inspiration* also means that Scripture is *inerrant* and *infallible*. Now remember, dear friends, that inerrant means that Scripture *does not* contain any error, while infallible means that Scripture *cannot* contain any error. And it is this issue of Scriptural infallibility that was the formal cause of the Protestant Reformation almost 500 years ago.

You see, back in the 16th Century the Roman Church taught that by virtue of his position as the supposed successor of Peter, the pope has final authority in the Church. As the vicar of Christ or as the physical human representative of Jesus Christ and the mouthpiece of God on the earth, when the pope sits in the throne of Peter and speaks about matters of faith or morals, he is speaking “ex-cathedra” or from the chair. And that means whatever he says is *infallible*, in that it does not possess the ability to contain any error.

The Reformers said, “Not so”. The Reformers taught that since it is a fact that men both *can* and *do* err - sometimes grievously - and that because papal pronouncements through the centuries have been both factually wrong and in contradiction with other papal pronouncements - because that is true, it is Scripture and Scripture alone that is infallible. And Scripture alone has the final and ultimate Authority in the Church of Jesus Christ... and *not* the pope.

And the Reformers summarized all that they taught about the Infallibility and Authority of Scripture into a short Latin phrase: “Sola Scriptura”, which means “Scripture Alone”. And today *Sola Scriptura* is still cried out by those who believe **2 Timothy 3:16 & 17**... that only Scripture is inspired, and thus only Scripture is infallible and not any man, no matter how sincere that man might be, or what title you give him, or what chair he sits in, or what position he holds in the Church.

And *Sola Scriptura* goes on to teach that since only Scripture is Infallible and Authoritative, then by default that means that Scripture

trumps any man, any group of men, any Church Council and man-made Doctrinal Statement, any angelic visitation, any word of wisdom, any word of knowledge, any prophecy, any interpretation of tongues, any dream, any vision, any book, any song, any creed, or any writing that is in any way different than what is found in the sixty-six Books of the Holy Bible.

The Apostle Paul confirmed Sola Scriptura when he said in **Galatians 1:8 (NASB):**

⁸ But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

Sola Scriptura says that since all men can and do err, that all Church Doctrine and all teaching in the Church, and all Correction that goes on inside the House of God, must come from the Scriptures and from the Scriptures alone. All of that is the practical and logical impact that the word “infallible” has when we are talking about Scripture.

But the term *inspiration* goes on to mean that Scripture is *relevant*. Now the word “relevant” is an interesting word. When we say that something is relevant, we mean to say that it is *not* obsolete. It is valuable and sufficient even though it may be old and even ancient. Many areas of Scripture are indeed ancient. For example, the Book of Job was written many thousands of years before Jesus was born, and Jesus was born two thousand years ago. So that makes books like Job and Genesis and many of the Old Testament Books to be ancient.

But because they are also inspired, those Books and every single word in them is *relevant*, meaning that it is not obsolete and is good to use today to teach Absolute Morality and Divine Truth.

Now where Biblical relevancy comes in most of the time is with hotbed issues that are socially unacceptable today, like those issues that pertain to women and marriage or issues relating to money and relationships. So the fact that all Scripture is inspired and thus all Scripture is relevant means that we must teach, obey, love, and submit to what the Bible teaches about these issues... even though they may be very unpopular or sometimes even illegal.

For example, the Bible teaches that part and parcel to worshipping the one true living God is how we live our lives, and not just what we do during the song service on Sunday morning. Anybody

can sing a song. Anybody can raise their hands up in the air, and anyone can be emotionally moved because of what somebody sings or what somebody says. You don't have to be saved to do all of those things. So in and of themselves, those things that we call "worship" do not necessarily mean that the people are actually worshipping God.

In **Matthew 4**, Jesus told the woman at the well that the Father seeks people who will worship Him in two ways:

1. In Spirit
2. In Truth

Now today, worshipping in Spirit has come to mean that people enter into an emotional or existential ecstasy as we sway back and forth with our eyes closed. And while many people may very well love Jesus and be saved and be very sincere about this, that is not what worshipping in the Spirit means.

Worshipping in Spirit simply means that you are not coming to God to worship any way you see fit... like Cain or like the two sons of Aaron... but that you come to God in the prescribed way in which God has told us to come in His Word. Dear friends, you and I must come to God with clean hands, with a pure heart, with no guile, with no animosity and no unforgiveness, with no ulterior motive; we must come humble, broken, fearful, soft-hearted, and sincere. That's how we come to God.

And how we live our lives, and what we do with our money, and what we look at, and what goes in our ears, and how we raise our children, and how we treat our spouses, and how we conduct our business... and what comes out of our mouths, and what we love, and how well we have denied ourselves, and how often we have picked up our crosses, and how much we have followed Jesus... and how much of the world is in us... all of those things go into whether or not we are able to come before God like He told us to.

Many hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah said this in **Isaiah 29:13**:

**¹³ Then the Lord said,
"Because this people draw near with their words
And honor Me with their lip service,**

**But they remove their hearts far from Me,
And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*,**

So contrary to what we may think as Americans, we do not have the right to come before God any way we want to and at our own convenience. You and I must work very hard to be sure that we come to God properly and correctly, in accordance with what God said in His Word, so that we may worship God in Spirit.

But even then we are not finished. Now we must worship God in Truth. And that means that this must be real and not a show - not something that we put on to impress people or to appear to be something that we are not.

For example, if a wife lives in rebellion to her husband and does not submit herself to the authority of her husband, the Bible says that that wife cannot worship God in either Spirit or Truth... no matter how much she may *say* that she loves the Lord. If a man does not love his wife like Christ loved the Church, God said that he cannot worship Him in Spirit or Truth... no matter how much he *says* that he loves the Lord. If men sit back and allow their wives to rule the home, they cannot worship God in Spirit or Truth. Children who sass their parents and who do not obey their parents cannot worship God in Spirit or Truth... no matter how much they *say* they love God. And if employees come in late to work and lay around and dilly-dally on the job and don't give eight solid hours of work for eight solid hours of pay, the infallible Word of the living God says that not one of those employees can ever hope to worship God in Spirit or Truth... no matter how much they *say* they love the Lord.

We have got to realize, dear friends, that part and parcel to worshipping God is in our obedience to what God has said. We can't separate what we do from who we are. If we are in fact bondslaves of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we must prove that by our loving and humble submission to what God has clearly revealed in Scripture. *That* is what it means to say that Scripture is relevant.

Worshipping in the Spirit is worshipping in accordance with what the Spirit has written in the Bible. Walking in the Spirit is walking in humble obedience to what the Spirit wrote in the Bible. Praying in the Spirit is praying in accord with the Will of God as found in the Bible.

So to live our lives in rebellion to what God has said is to remove our ability to worship God in either Spirit or Truth. Please read with me **1 Peter 3:7:**

⁷ You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

For men to not love and honor and respect their wives; for wives to rise up and rule and dominate their husbands; for children to talk back to and disobey their parents; for people to dishonor their employer; and then for these people in this condition to waltz right into the Church like everything is fine and stick their hands up in the air to worship God while the music is playing; this is the height of arrogance and it is to make a mockery of what worship is, and it is to do exactly what God said we were *not* supposed to do.

And to be accountable to these things - for *all* of us to be held accountable to these things - is to believe that Scripture is relevant.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **Hebrews**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. *Soli Deo Gloria*. For the Glory of God alone.