

## *Sound Bible is Sound Doctrine.*

**Special NOTE:** Throughout this PDF document, you can go to the referenced web pages by clicking with the PDF hand on the magenta colored rectangular boxes.

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As a young pastor in Hot Springs Arkansas<sup>1</sup>, I was invited by one the large Baptists churches in the city to teach a study course series on the book of James. At one of the sessions I was taken to task by a middle-age woman to said after listening as it was a verse by verse straight exegesis of exactly what is in the book of James {just letting the Bible say what it wants to say}, "Is that really Baptist doctrine?" This question implies that there could be a denominational difference between official doctrine and the doctrine of the Bible, and even worse it also implies that Baptist doctrine could come from any other place except the Bible, in spite of the heritage of Baptists and as recorded in Baptist's Statements of Faith, "The Bible is the sole criterion for faith and practice." One of the tolls on Christian churches from the Falling Away is that such church members have moved into the majority, caused either by: (1) a lack of teaching and listening on sound doctrine about the Bible itself; Or (2) attitudes and life styles that have generated unsound doctrine on the place of the Bible in the life of the Christian. {Lack of proper respect for actual Bible, instead of for the cover and icon of Bible, on the part of leaders naturally leads to a lack of respect on the part of church members, ranging all the way from those who see no authority in the Bible to the other extreme of those who neglect the place the Word of God deserves.}

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1. Actually at the Walnut Valley Baptist Church just north of Hot Springs.

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Speaking disrespectfully of the Bible is like speaking less than well about mother, apple pie, and the American flag; yet the same church members will show a lack of respect by neglect. In other words, do not think about them at all!

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*1-1: The demands of The Bible on every life as given in the Bible Itself.*

There would be no need for such a statement as above if every church member {goodness if even the majority of church members} really believed down deep in their hearts and souls, like Jesus said:

**“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)**

1. Have you stopped to think about what Jesus has stated here: !1) first that every word of the Bible is a word that has originated from the mouth, thought, and character of God {what Baptist statements of faith from the past meant when they stated “THE BIBLE IS DIVINE IN ORIGIN”<sup>1</sup>}; and (2) every creature of God is to spend as much effort at living on the Bible as they do making a living.

2. What has happened with the historical movement since about 1968 of the Falling Away {the great Apostasy the Bible predicts} is as church members have lost their first love of God, Christ, and the Bible is that both convictions and courage of convictions have been lost; and at the same time the American Democratic Faith has become a substitute for Christian faith. While before the falling away, the source of unity among all Christians was the 7 ONES {one body, one Spirit, one hope of the Christian calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all}; now, well into the falling away, the reason all churches and denominations have so much in common is they are all victims of the falling away. In other words, when you have little convictions and courage of convictions, you have the same thing in common with all other churches and denominations; and you come to the point of saying, “It doesn’t matter which church you go to, as long as long as you go.” {Wish that it were so; however when you consider how far the American church is now into the falling away,

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1. Number one in Sound Bible of Sound Doctrine.

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you must strive to find one of the 2 out of 7 churches, like in the book of Revelations, where the majority membership, if possible, are overcomers.]

I can vividly recall how as a senior in Bible at Ouachita Baptist, I asked Dr. Blackmon, a professor wise in Bible and pastoring, if it would be possible to write a research paper on "Baptist Distinctives", to which at first he replied, "Is there any such thing?" And brothers, just imagine, that was in 1961; now, over 50 years later where do you think the SBC, and others, are on distinctives, especially on the distinction that: (1) The Bible is the Word of God--divine in origin, absolute the authority, sufficient in message, high fidelity in communication, and self-interpretive; and (2) The Bible is the sole criterion for faith and practice<sup>1</sup>.

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*1-2: Implications and Implementations of Sound Bible to Sound Doctrine and to Sound Living.*<sup>2</sup> Church member, it hardly matters what you believe if you do not have the convictions, and courage of convictions, to implement it into your lifestyle. Jesus was serious when He taught all Christians of all times that "man is to live by every word that comes out of the mouth of God."

1. How the Bible is DIVINE IN ORIGIN should impact your lifestyle. Here is a book claiming to be words from the LORD God our father, the Creator of this Universe; and if you accept that claim, as you should<sup>3</sup>, just think how eager you must be to scoff up every word from cover to cover, and to do that often.
2. How the Bible is ABSOLUTE IN AUTHORITY should impact your life. Granted most church members at this point have a problem in accepting any authority that they themselves find in the Bible over the authoritative opinions of others. Quite often, it is a matter of "giving up" of knowing what is really truth and right. {In #18 of this Refreshing Evangelism series, you will find a dis-

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1. At least the Roman Catholic hierarchy made no bones about their own authority over Scripture with doctrinal statements to that effect, but Baptists have just eased with the Falling away into denominational priorities of teachings over Bible.

2. Reference on this web site "Sound Living is Sound Doctrine".

3. See for a prima facie case on the Bible as the Word of God, the book by McLennan Day, WONDER OF THE WORD.

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cussion of "What is Truth?", so stay tuned.} However based on hermeneutics<sup>1</sup> and Christian evidences and apologetics<sup>2</sup>, the most basic reply to that is "the harder you try to understand Bible", the closer you will come to absolute truth. And once, you really catch on to number 5 below, about how the Bible is self-interpretive, you are going to get at how "no scripture is of any private interpretation, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

Once, from the Word and prayer, you develop some courage of convictions, then you should based on the authority of the only divine Creator and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, say like Peter, "We must listen to God rather than to men". (Acts 4:19.20)

It helps if you have a little background on the second Baptist distinctive, that of SOUL COMPETENCY which is sometimes based on the book of Hebrews, called the priesthood of believers. One time on the tennis court, a priest showed up to play with his collar still on, and after play told the group that he was available if they needed assistance in prayer and other official religious matters, to which I replied based on the baptist distinctive of the priesthood of all believer, "Thanks, but I have direct access", and pointed upward. And this is exactly what soul competency or the priesthood of believers implies, every believer through the Lord Jesus Christ is entitled to direct access to God the Father and to the Bible of God the Father.

It is amazing about the paranoid nature of American between their Christian faith and the American Democratic faith: how they on the one hand can believe that "all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"; and then on the other hand come to the Bible with the attitude that they are not equal in soul competency to understand it, and beyond that do not have the conviction that is from the pages of that Bible where they will learn about happiness.

3. How the Bible is SUFFICIENT IN MESSAGE should impact your life. It is recalled how J. B. Phillips in *YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL* told of how youth did not believe that God understood radar or computers. The same thing could be said about ignorance on the Bible, that God just did not understand us and our problems when He wrote that Book. No, all that have spent sufficient time

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1. Commonly known as the science of biblical interpretation, as in Ramm's book; but really is nothing less than the principles the Bible Itself lays down for proper understanding and interpretation.
  2. See the web site on [www.biblecombibleman.com](http://www.biblecombibleman.com) entitled "ChristianEvidencesApologetics"

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with IT have found that it is sufficient for all life, all problems of life, for salvation, and for eternal plans, as well as for the living of a challenging and abundant Christian life.

4. How the Bible is HIGH FIDELITY IN COMMUNICATION should affect you. Like the Apostle Paul wrote:

**"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the divisions of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:12,13)**

(1), It will refresh you as a Christian to develop, primarily from usage, the conviction that the Bible is ALIVE, much more than paper and cover and print, and well beyond any other book. It will bring Refreshing Evangelism with "times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" to you and to your church group to feel like Phillips did in the translation of the book of Revelation that, like an electrician, he had gotten ahold of a live wire. Oh, that more church members throughout American that could experience the same in Bible reading and study. This within itself would bring Refreshing Evangelism to American churches.

(2) The Bible, as Word of God and words out of the mouth of God, has POWER to change your life, change your thinking, and especially to change your salvation. In short, there is a very deep connection between the Bible and God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and the "church of the firstborn written in heaven." One might make a case that there is also a connection between the new birth and the Bible.

(3) The Bible is "SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD" It is both sharp and cuts two ways. How? In 3 ways: (a) "piercing even to the divisions of soul and spirit", (b) "and of joints and marrow," (c) "and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart".

**NOTE: Caution, be sure to stay away from the Bible if you do not really wish to know what you are like in the sight of God.**

**(4) No creature can hide forever from His Creator and the words that come out of the mouth of His Creator.**

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(5). You will give account to Him for every word that has come out of the mouth of God.

5. How the Bible is SELF-INTERPRETIVE implements into life.

(1). There is only one real interrelation of the Bible, the Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation of the Bible Peter spoke of in II Peter 1:21,22.

**"No prophesy<sup>1</sup> of scripture is of any private interpretation {you see this eliminates all other than the Authorized Interpretation}, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (II Peter 1:21,22)**

**NOTE: If you do not see that, then perhaps you have not been reading the Top 12 Topics of the Bible, developed based on all the OT quotations in the NT, which by the way always explain the proper from the Apostles and Prophets interpretation. What is most important in the OT, is quoted and explained in the NT, and that is what is meant by SELF-INTERPRE-TIVE. Whatever a Prophet writes, an Apostle and Jesus explain; and whatever Jesus and an Apostle write, a Prophet predicted.**

(2) Now, what does this mean to the life you live? That you can know and understand the Bible since it is self-interpretive. That you can understand and live by the Bible; and that no-one, absolutely no one, should come between you and God on the understanding of the Bible. Sure, like the Ethiopian said to Philip, "How can I understand except someone should guide me", you need good conservative and spirit-inspired guides and advisers to Bible. Just make sure you chose very wisely these guides. Make sure they have already experienced all 5 of the Refreshing Evangelisms of: the divinity of the Word; the proper authority of the Word; sufficiency in the Word; years before you that have many hours of high fidelity communications in the Sword of the Spirit; and they in turn have already enjoyed the comparing of scripture with scripture by the ASPI<sub>2</sub>.

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1. While we might think, or incompletely quote, that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God", it is the "prophesy" or interpretation that can not be private. It has to be the Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation.
  2. The Authorized Semi-Public Interpretation. It is semi-public in that everyone can not understand it unless (1) they are born again, (2) they are willing to do the will of God; (3) they compare scripture with scripture; and (4) they seek and find the Spirit of God in long hours of Bible study and reading. Men like B. H. Carroll, R. G. Lee, Bernard Ramm, Ray Summers, McDowell, F.F. Bruce, and C.S. Lewis are recommended.

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*I-3: You had best practice Refreshing Evangelism on the Bible right now to get caught up before the Withdrawal of the Holy Spirit as Bible understanding without the help of the Holy Spirit becomes very difficult.*

1. Granted the time between the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit, with the subsequent release of Satan from bondage, is only a short time before the END, but it can be for Christians a very miserable short time with the help of the "paraclete", the one who goes along beside and helps us. Not only will you Christians have to put up with the physical tribulations of the final tribulation, but you will have to do it with less help!
2. Since the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ with the sending of the Holy Spirit, democratically and with great power, it has been His job to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and can you imagine how during that short time before the END, you will be required to be Christian and live Christian without any external help from the Spirit. He has done all the Refreshing Evangelism. It is almost inconceivable to think of how it will be for Christians, without help from the Spirit, that short time!

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*I-4: The "ALL SCRIPTURE" Dedicated Lifetime Approach is Sound Bible and Sound Doctrine.*

Dr B.H. Carroll, former President of Baylor, had a dedicated lifetime approach unequalled by any other when he started Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary by taking students through the whole English Bible in a short period of time. We are fortunate to have his lectures through the Bible in the 17 Bible commentaries called AN INTERPRETATION OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE.<sup>1</sup> Two or maybe 3 factors obviously dominated the life of Carroll: (1) CHRIST, he told Lee Scarborough to keep Christ up-front and at center; (2) BIBLE, as his emphasis on the Bible itself, and exegesis, over the too common approach of today's BBFs<sup>2</sup> to

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1. Get a set while you can, because the BBF that took over the SBC are slowly eroding away all the good traditions and heritages from the past. Have you noticed how the old classics of southern baptists have been replaced in the SBC Lifeway book stores?
  2. Bible Baptists Fundamentalists.

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select a few, or hunt and peck, almost makes AN INTREPRETATION as timeless as the Bible Itself<sup>1</sup>.

**“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproach, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God {this is generic for men and women like in Genesis} may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (II Timothy 3:16,17)**

Yes, we have used it often to prove that the Bible is divine in origin to the unbeliever; however it is primarily written to the believer to profit in the only way the believer should give himself over to profiting--that is by allowing God to lead him on into the complete life of sanctification, with a thoroughness of ALL scripture {cover to cover and chapter by chapter} that is balanced with the full spectrum of profitability, that of doctrine, reproach, correction, and instruction in righteousness. Have you ever noticed that there are two main thrusts in the world for righteousness, there is the Holy Spirit Who over two thousand years ago entered this world scene to “convict the world of sin, or righteousness, and judgment”, and then there is the Bible that with proper ALL scripture usage leads the man of God into more righteousness, and completion.

1. Now all this can not happen, and is not happening, if you pastors and preachers, also denominational leaders, do not make the ALL Scripture approach.

2. Some ways to do this are: (1) Read and teach and preach through the Bible at least once a year; (2) read and study through Carroll's INTERPRETATION, supplementing your study with some new conservative commentaries like the NEW INTERNATIONAL series {You will love F. F. Bruce.}; (3) Learn to live with the OT quotes in the NT as the God-given structure and unity to assure us that all that is most important from the OT will be included in the NT; and wow, with proper ASPI interpretation also--the approach you will find in the 4 versions of volume one of the LEARN CHRIST commentaries; and (4) while not as good as Carroll in going through the whole Bible in 17 volumes, the LEARN CHRIST commentaries do it in six volumes. If you go through all six of the LCC commentaries, you have a much better chance in your life and ministry approach to do the ALL Scripture approach. {The first 5 volumes, actually 8

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1. Have you noticed even as research on the Bible has amassed significantly, both (1) people do not know more about the Bible Itself, and (2) the Bible with Its message from God remains the same, communication in high fidelity to all who will observe Its method of self-interpretation, and will practice the good hermeneutics of “just letting the Bible say what it wants to say” regardless of the version or translation or language. Remember the Bible is alive!

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when you consider there are 3 versions of volume 1, are now being made free in PDF to the constituents of the [www.biblecombibleman.com](http://www.biblecombibleman.com) web site; and in most cases are expedited for deliver by e-mail upon the submit form request.}

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*I-5: Wow, the Treasures waiting there for your Bible Pleasures!*

You just don't realize what Bible pleasures, of the eternal kind, that are waiting for you with some serious applications to Bible reading and Bible study; of course in a prayerful attitude and expression. You will profit daily, and your people will profit greatly!

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