

# GOD'S WORD IS THE FINAL AUTHORITY



Revelation 22:18-21





## John 10:27

**27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:**

## Revelation 3:6


**6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

## John 8:45-49

45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

46 Which of you convinceth me of sin?  
And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.




**48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?**

**49 Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.**



## **Revelation 22:18-19**

**18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:**



**19 And if any man shall take away  
from the words of the book of this  
prophecy, God shall take away his  
part out of the book of life, and out  
of the holy city, and from the things  
which are written in this book.**



**His Word is absolutely sufficient in  
itself.**

**Psalm 119:160**

**160 Thy word is true from the  
beginning: and every one of thy  
righteous judgments endureth for ever.**




## **Why we accept the Bible as Divinely inspired:**


- 1. Its record of fulfilled prophecy**
- 2. Its consistent theme and congruency**
- 3 .Its endurance**
- 4. Its confirmation by archaeology and science**

**The Bible is comprised of 66 Books written over a period of about 1,500**





**years by over 40 authors from all walks of life, with different kinds of personalities, and in all sorts of situations. It covers hundreds of controversial subjects. Yet, it fits together into one cohesive story with an appropriate beginning, a logical ending, a central character, and a consistent theme.**



**How does one begin to explain such historical, structural, prophetic, doctrinal, and spiritual congruency (harmony) apart from the fact that its real author was Divine?!**



## **2 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:**



## **2 Peter 1:20-21**

**20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

**21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**



## **John 10:35**

**35 ....and the scripture cannot be broken;**

**Jesus was speaking of God's written word. The events, actions, commandments, and truths from God are given to us in propositional form, i.e. logical, written sentences.**




**God's declaration in Scripture is that the WORD and it alone is the final authority in all matters of faith and morals.**




## **Jesus Christ Affirmed scripture.**

**The Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, identified truth with the written Word. In His great, high priestly prayer, He said, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” This was consistent with the declarations right through the Old Testament in which the Holy Spirit continually proclaims that the**




**revelation from God is truth, as for example Psalm 119:142, “thy law is truth.” There is no source other than Scripture alone to which such a statement applies. That source alone, the Holy Scripture, is the believer’s standard of truth.**





**In the New Testament, it is the written word of God, and that alone, to which the Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles refer as the final authority. In the temptation, the Lord Jesus three times resisted Satan, saying, “It is written” as for example, in Matthew 4:4, “he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by**



**every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.** In stating “It is written,” the Lord used the exact same phrase that is used in the Holy Bible forty six times. The persistence of the repeated phrase underlines its importance. The Lord’s total acceptance of the authority of the Old




**Testament is evident in His words  
found in Matthew 5:17-18:**

**“Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. For verily, I say unto you, Till heaven and Earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.”**

## Other sources of authority condemned

People often attempt to give human traditions higher authority than God's Word. This was true of the Jews of Jesus' day. In refuting the errors of the Sadducees, the Scripture records the Lord saying, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Matthew 22:29).




**Christ Jesus continually castigated and rebuked the Pharisees because they made their traditions on a par with the Word of God—corrupting the very basis of truth by equating their traditions with God’s Word. So He declared to them in Mark 7:13 “You are making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have**



**delivered: and many such things do ye.”**


**Since Scripture alone is inspired, it alone is the ultimate authority, and it alone is the final judge of Tradition.**

**The Word of the Lord says as a commandment in Proverbs 30:5-6:**  
**“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.**



**Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”**

**God commands that we are not to add to His Word: this command shows emphatically that it is God’s Word alone that is pure and uncontaminated.**



Aligned with Proverbs, the Lord's strong, clear declaration in Isaiah 8:20 is: “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

The truth is this: since God's written word alone is inspired, it and it alone is the sole rule of faith. It cannot be otherwise.






How is Scripture to be accurately interpreted?

God interprets His world by bringing it to pass.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.



**21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**


**Malachi 4:5-6**



Is Scripture alone adequate, or do we need more?

The total sufficiency of Scripture is declared by the Apostle Paul,

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God




may be perfect, thoroughly furnished  
unto all good works.”

—2 Timothy 3:16-17


**For final truth and authority, all that  
we need is the Scripture.**

**What about the claim that sola  
Scriptura is not possible?**



**In an attempt to justify traditions as being of equal or higher authority than Scripture, an appeal is often made to the very last verse in John's gospel,**


**“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose**



**that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”**

**—John 21:25**

**Of course, there were many deeds and sayings of the Lord not recorded in Scripture. Nonetheless, Scripture is the**




authoritative record that Holy God has given His people. We do not have a single sentence that is authoritatively from the Lord, outside of what is in the written word. To appeal to a tradition for authority, when Holy God did not give it, is futile. The idea that somehow sayings and events from the Lord have



**been recorded in tradition is simply not true.**

**Another attempt to justify tradition, is the statement that the early church did not have the New Testament. The Apostle Peter speaks about the writings of the Apostle Paul when he states,**






**“...even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other**



**scriptures, unto their own destruction.”**


**—2 Peter 3:15-16**

**Peter also declares that he was writing so that the believers could remember what he said. So he wrote, “Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these**




**things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth” [\(2 Peter 1:12\)](#).**

**From the earliest days of Christianity, a substantial part of the New Testament was available. Under the inspiration of the Lord, the Apostle Paul commands his letters to be read in other churches**



**besides those to which they were sent. This clearly shows that the written word of God was being circulated even as the Apostles lived. The Lord's command to believe what is written has always been something that the believers could obey and did obey. In this matter we must have the humility commanded in the Scripture not to**




**think above what is written. “...that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another” (1 Corinthians 4:6).**




## **Isaiah 55:10-11**

**10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:**




**11** So shall my word be that goeth forth  
out of my mouth: it shall not return  
unto me void, but it shall accomplish  
that which I please, and it shall prosper  
in the thing whereto I sent it.



**This is 'absolute authority' speaking. There are no conditions attached, no restrictions and no limitations. This statement indicates the sovereignty of the One who spoke the Word and the absolute perfection of the Word spoken - it needs nothing added to it or taken from it.**





**To the Believer, the Holy Bible is the 'Divinely Inspired' Word of God; the ultimate standard of measurement for Christian conduct, Church order and doctrine. Throughout his life and ministry Bro. William Branham believed in and taught the 'absolute authority' of the Bible in all matters that pertain to life and godliness.**




**Also it is written:**

**Psalm 119:89**

**89 For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled  
in heaven.**

**This is but another confirmation of the  
'absolute authority', 'finality' and  
'conclusiveness' of the Word of God.**



**It is impossible for us to improve upon the Divine revelation contained within it's pages. So perfect is His Word that God issued this warning:**




## **Deuteronomy 4:2**

**2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.**




## **Hebrews 4:12-13**


**12 For the word of God is alive, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart.**



**13 There is no creature that is not revealed in His sight, for all things are bare and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**



**What a WORD! What a Book! So few professing Christians realize what they have in their possession, in a Book called The Holy Bible. For thousands of years man has tried to probe it's height, it's depth, it's breadth - still we're only scratching the surface of it's richness.**




**So enduring is the Word of God, as  
contained in the pages of the Bible that  
Jesus said,**


**Matthew 24:35**

**35 Heaven and earth shall pass away,  
but my words shall not pass away.**







**Christianity is the only religion established upon the writings of a Book as unique as that of The Holy Bible - the Words of which are with POWER - life-changing, life-sustaining Power - Eternal Life! Highly respected Pastor and Bible Teacher Arthur. W. Pink (1886 - 1952) stated that "Christianity is the religion of "a" Book.**




**Christianity is based upon the impregnable Rock of Holy Scriptures." The very foundation upon which Christian Truth rests is the reality of the Divine Inspiration of the Bible. For the True Christian, the Bible is the final court of appeal in all matters.**




**The Bible in itself is a most amazing Book. No other book ever written has ever had the impact on mankind as this book. No other book has ever been studied and read as much as God's Bible. No other book has been reproduced as much as the Bible; and no other book has been more controversial.**



**Other books have been controversial in 'it's season' but after those books are forgotten and lost in time, the Bible still remains, is still printed by the millions, is still read, still discussed, still controversial, and still having an impact upon the world - clear evidence that the Word of God is "quick (with life in itself), powerful (it vindicates**




**itself), sharper than any two-edged sword (lays bare all things), a discerner (revealer - exposing) the thoughts and intents of the heart".**



**Isaiah 66:2** states: "For all those [things] hath mine hand made, and all those [things] have been, saith the LORD: but to this [man] will I look, [even] to [him that is] poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." **John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word,

and believeth on him that sent me,  
hath everlasting life, and shall not  
come into condemnation; but is passed  
from death unto life." And John 8:31  
thunders these words: "If ye continue  
in my word, [then] are ye my disciples  
indeed;" "For ever, O LORD, thy word is  
settled in heaven." Psalms 119:89.



**...Man shall not live by bread alone but  
by every word that proceedeth out of  
the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4**





# What Bro. Branham said said about The Bible.

## 64-0816 - Proving His Word

78 ...When God says anything, just—  
just the way He said, that's the thing to  
do. ... anything, any teacher, any Bible  
expositor, anything else would teach



you or try to get you to believe

anything one little iota different from

what this Bible says it, it's a false

teaching. It's Satan, again, just exactly like it was to Eve. God goes right on, no matter what he does, what Satan does, God goes right on proving It to be so.


## 56-0401M - The Mighty Conqueror

141 ...Now the time is at hand that I must either be a false witness or a true witness of Christ. If I have told the truth, as I believe this Bible to be the Truth, and no other book, and anything contrary to This is not the truth; I only believe that this Bible contains the Truth of God.




## 55-0607 - The True Vine And A False Vine

**12 That's real what we should do. But we American people, you know what's the matter with us? We've been drug through every school of theology, one vice versa from the other one. One will set around now and say, "Dr. Jones says that's mind reading." "Well, my**



pastor says, the guy is a Beelzebub; he is a devil.” The other one said, “Well, it’s not the Lord; I will tell you that.” And the people don’t know what to believe. You believe God’s Bible; that’s the thing that’s right. “Let ever man words be a lie; let Mine be the true,” God says, no matter what it is....If God



**says it in His Word, and He produces it,  
believe it, and go on. Forget the rest of  
it, and just let God be truth.**




## 53-0609A - Demonology, Religious Realm

99 Now, then, the Urim of Thummim  
today is this Bible. If somebody has  
give a prophecy or a dream, and it  
don't compare or echo with God's  
Bible, it's false. Don't believe it.


## **53-0614E - I Perceive That Thou Art A Prophet**

**7...As we been studying this week, about the ways that God answers...God in the Old Testament answered either by prophecy, by the prophet, by a dream, or by the Urim Thummim. And if the prophet said something and the Urim Thummim did not record that**





**right, the Voice of God flashing those colors on the Urim Thummim, then it was not right. And if a dreamer dreamed something and they give an interpretation, it went before the Urim Thummim and It did not answer, then that dream was not right. And it wasn't interpreted right. And any man, or any person that comes with anything that**




**cannot be backed up by this, which is today, God's Urim Thummim, the Word, it's wrong. It's got to be in the Bible, THUS SAITH THE LORD (See?), got to be absolutely in the Scriptures.**




## **64-0320 - God Identifying Himself By His Characteristics.**

**117 ...when a dreamer dreamed a dream, and there was no prophet in the land to see if this dream was right or not, they had another way of finding out. They took that character, ever who dreamed the dream, took him down to the temple. The breastplate of**



**Aaron, who was the high priest, hung on the post. And this dreamer told this dream. No matter how good it sound, how real it sound; if there wasn't a supernatural Light flashed on those stones, which is called Urim Thummim (Bible readers understand); then, I don't care how real it sounded, it wasn't so. The unusualness of God, the**




**character of God, had to display His characteristics in the supernatural, to show that He identified Himself on the message. Amen. 118 I say the same thing tonight. The old Urim Thummim is gone, but the Word is still the thing that identifies the characteristic of God, the promise of the hour that we're living.**



## **63-1226 - Church Order**

**6 Now, I'm not trying to usurp authority or something like that, but, you see, a man or anything with two heads to it, it—it doesn't know how to go. God never did have two heads to His Church, He never did, it's one head. He always dealt in every generation as we've studied through the Scriptures,**



**there's always one individual that He deals with. Because you get two men, you got two opinions. And it's got to come to one final absolute, and my absolute is the Word, the Bible. And as a pastor here of the church, my absolute is the Word, and I want... I know you, our brothers, you kind of look to me to be your absolute to**



**what...as long as I follow God, as Paul  
said in the Scripture, “You follow me,  
as I follow Christ.”**



