

Why God Gave Man the Bible

Introduction

1. God has a purpose in everything He does.
 - a. He has never engaged in idleness.
 - b. He has never done something just for the sake of doing it.
2. God has a purpose(s) in giving the Bible to man.
 - a. Those purposes will be accomplished.
 - b. “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.’” (Isa. 55:8-11)
3. In this lesson we will explore some of the reasons God gave man the Bible especially considering those which pertain to man’s salvation.

I. To Tell Man He Is Lost

- A. If God had not given man the Bible, man would not know:
 1. About heaven, hell or sin.
 2. He is lost.
 3. He has a need for a Savior.
- B. Every effort to save man has been and will continue to be futile until he is made to recognize he is lost and needs salvation.
 1. As the person who has a physical illness must know of that illness and that he is in need of medical attention, the sinner must know of his spiritual sickness and see his need for salvation.
 2. Until one recognizes that he needs to be saved from his lost condition, he will never make the changes that he must make in his life to effect his salvation.
- C. Sin dooms man to be lost.
 1. God created man as a pure, upright being. (Eccl. 7:29)
 2. When man disobeyed God and sinned, he was separated from God. (Gen. 3:23-24)

3. As sin separated the first man from God, sin separates man from God today. (Isa. 59:1-2; Eph. 2:12)
 - a. Man, because of his sins, is lost and doomed to eternal death—separation from God in the place of eternal punishment. (Rom. 6:23; Matt. 25:41-46)
 - b. How would man have known this if God had not given him the Bible?

II. To Assure Man That He Desires All to Be Saved

- A. The Bible clearly states that it is the desire of God that all be saved. (1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9)
- B. Truth, the word of God (John 17:17), is His means of salvation.
 1. It is His power unto salvation. (Rom. 1:16)
 2. It has the power to free men from sin. (John 8:32)
 3. It thoroughly furnishes man with all he needs to know in relation to life and godliness. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3)
- C. In the Bible one learns of the wonderful love God manifested toward mankind.
 1. His love allowed His Son to die as a sacrifice for sin. (John 3:16-17; Rom. 5:8)
 2. Such shows God's intense desire for the salvation of every soul.
- D. The Bible reveals that Christ built His church to stand forever as a haven of refuge for all who would obey Him and be saved. (Matt. 16:18-19)
 1. Every soul that is saved is added to it. (Acts 2:47)
 2. The Bible shows people how they may be a part of Christ's church.

III. To Explain All He Has Done to Save Man

- A. God created man an intelligent being.
 1. Man is able to reason, study and understand. (Gen. 1:26)
 2. God gave man the Bible to read and study so that he might learn and understand the way of salvation.
- B. The way of salvation.
 1. In the Old Testament:
 - a. God chose Abraham from whom He would develop a nation of people. (Gen. 12:1-3)
 - b. God cultivated and tutored that nation for hundreds of years that through it He might bring the Savior, Jesus Christ, into the world.
 - 1) He blessed them when they were obedient but severely punished them when they departed from His way.

- 2) We know all of this because God has given it to us in the Bible so that we might benefit from it. (1 Cor. 10:7-11; Rom. 15:4)
- c. Shadows, types, prophecies and promises are found which find their fulfillment in the New Testament.
- 2. In the New Testament one learns:
 - a. Of the sacrificial death, the victorious resurrection and the glorious coronation of Christ as king over His kingdom. (Acts 2:22-36)
 - b. Of the establishment of the church. (Acts 2:1ff)
 - c. That the word of God has been given to serve as man's infallible guide in all matters pertaining to life and godliness. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3)
- C. All this was done by God to save man from sin.

IV. To Reveal the Meaning of Salvation

- A. Many people today either completely misunderstand or only partially understand the great subject of salvation.
 - 1. There is no excuse for either of the above situations.
 - 2. God has revealed His way of salvation in such a way that all can understand it. (Eph. 3:1-5)
- B. The Bible reveals:
 - 1. The meaning of salvation. When one complies with God's conditions of pardon, all his sins are forgiven never to be remembered against him.
 - 2. The destiny of salvation. The end of the way of salvation is an eternal home in heaven and a crown of life.
 - 3. The method of salvation. The method by which one is saved is belief in and obedience to Jesus Christ.

V. To Reveal What One Must Do to Be Saved

- A. From the beginning of time, God has always revealed what He desires of man.
- B. The Bible reveals that the principle which effects salvation has been the same in every dispensation.
 - 1. Fear God and keep His commandments. (Eccl. 12:13)
 - 2. Fear God and work righteousness. (Acts 10:34-35)
- C. God has revealed in the gospel what people must now do to be saved.
 - 1. One must obey Jesus Christ and His gospel. (Heb. 5:8-9)
 - 2. In order to be saved, one must:
 - a. Hear the gospel, the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)

- b. Believe in both Father and Son. (Heb. 11:6; John 8:24)
- c. Repent of his sins. (Acts 17:30-31)
- d. Confess his faith in Jesus Christ. (Rom. 10:10; Matt. 10:32)
- e. Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21)

VI. To Reveal What One Must Do to Keep Saved

- A. The Lord realized His disciples would need help to keep saved.
 - 1. He understood they would be surrounded with worldly influences and that temptation would be strong.
 - 2. He knew that the cares, riches and pleasures of this life would tempt many to leave Him.
- B. Jesus prayed to the Father in behalf of His disciples that God might "Sanctify them by Your truth: Your word is truth." (John 17:17)
 - 1. This prayer reveals how one may remain saved.
 - 2. To "sanctify" means to set apart or separate from the world and to consecrate oneself to God.
 - a. This is accomplished by the word of God.
 - b. When one applies the word of God to himself and lives by it, he is in fellowship with both the Father and Son (2 John 9), and thus has salvation.
 - c. One must keep the commands of God being faithful even to the point of death (Rev. 2:10) and he will receive the crown of life at the final day.

Conclusion

- 1. God's purpose in giving man the Bible is only fulfilled when each person learns its message and applies it to his life so that he might have the salvation of his soul.
- 2. Have you obeyed the word of God so that you might have your sins forgiven and be saved?