

Authority of the Scriptures

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I. Introduction.

- A. To get the most of your Bible, you have to use it.
- B. In order to be motivated to use the Bible, we must be convinced of its value.

II. Use of the Scriptures.

- A. This is a synonym for obedience.
- B. The result of obedience to the Scriptures. (Hebrews 5:12-15)
 - 1. Maturity.
 - 2. Success and prosperity. (Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1)
 - 3. God reveals himself.
 - 4. Wisdom. (Matthew 7:24-27)
- C. God wants our obedience. (Psalm 32; 119:85; Isaiah 66:2; 1 Chronicles 10:13)
- D. We receive Christ by faith. (Colossians 2:6)
 - 1. We have to make a decision for Christ by faith.
 - 2. Christ will then give a person peace and everything else.

III. The authority of the Word of God has to do with its source.

- A. It is not for us to decide which Scripture to obey—we believe all of God's ideas, concepts and words as authoritative. (2 Timothy 3:16)
- B. The Scripture is true truth. (John 17:17)
- C. Response.
 - 1. God's Word must be accepted by faith as authoritative for life.
 - 2. We need to obey our way to faith. (John 17)
 - 3. We need to let the Word loose.

IV. The value of Scripture has to do with the personal benefit to one's life and ministry.

- A. It is a source for strength. (Acts 20:32)
- B. It transforms our thinking. (Romans 12:2)

- C. It cleanses us. (John 15:3)
 - D. It gives us guidance. (Psalm 119:11)
 - E. It convicts us. (Hebrews 4:12)
 - F. It gives joy. (Jeremiah 15:16)
 - G. It gives peace. (Psalm 119:165)
 - H. It is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 12:11)
1. God's end is maturity and equipping the man of God.
 2. Paul said he could do all things through Christ who strengthens. (Philippians 4)

Application questions:

1. How would you defend the authority of the Bible?

2. What benefits from Scripture have you experienced personally?

3. What is your plan for mastering the Scriptures over your lifetime? If you don't have one, develop an outline below.
