

IS THE BIBLE TRULY GOD’S WORD? #1

John Edwards

IT CLAIMS TO BE

The Bible claims to be inspired of God. The expression, “*Thus saith the Lord*” or its equivalent is found over 2,000 times in the Bible.

MEN OF GOD, IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, CLAIMED TO SPEAK AS GOD DIRECTED THEM. David stated, “*The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue*” (2 Sam. 23:2). Amos answered, “*...the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel. Now therefore hear thou the word of the Lord...*” (Amos 7:15-16). Jeremiah said, “*Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the Lord...*” (Jer. 10:1-2).

THE APOSTLES AND NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS CLAIMED TO SPEAK FROM GOD. Paul declared, “*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly...*” (1 Tim. 4:1). Paul explained to the Ephesians that he wrote “*by revelation*” from God (Eph. 3:3-5). Paul claimed that what he spoke in Thessalonica was “*the word of God*” (1 Th. 2:13).

ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 makes the

claim of inspiration. “*Scripture*” (writings or oracles) includes both the Old and New Testaments (1 Tim. 5:18). “*All*” leaves none out. “*Inspiration of God*” means “*God breathed*”.

Peter, speaking of the divine origin of Scripture, said, “*...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*” (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

EFFECTIVE SONG LEADING

R. J. Stevens

To be asked to lead spiritual songs in the assembly is to be given the privilege of directing the congregation in worship to God. The leader is not just leading singing, he is leading others in true worship. An effective song leader is one who realizes the importance of his work.

SINCERE FAITH IN AND LOVE FOR GOD ARE PREREQUISITES TO EFFECTIVE SONG LEADING. Sincerity is contagious and our worship must be genuine and earnest in order to be pleasing to the Lord (Jn. 4:23-24).

SONGS MUST BE SELECTED THAT APPEAL TO THE HEART OF MAN. Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians

3:16 teach that we are to “*sing and make melody in the heart*” and “*sing with grace in the heart*” to the Lord. Singing must edify the hearts of those who worship in order for it to be acceptable to the Lord. An effective song leader will take this into consideration.

IT FOLLOWS THAT SONGS MUST BE SELECTED THAT THE CONGREGATION CAN SING. Most of the members of a congregation are not able to sight-read new songs. They are in the assembly to worship the Lord in spirit and in the truth. If they are unable to sing the song, that part of their worship is vain. Learning new songs can be done at special services or classes set aside for that purpose. When most of the members know the new song, use it in the assembly worship.

A THEME FOLLOWING SUCH AS FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, ETC. MAKES THE SONG SERVICE EFFECTIVE. Using Scriptures before the song is also helpful. Songs that complement the sermon ought to be used whenever it is possible, especially before the lesson.

IT TAKES A WHOLE LOT OF PLANNING TO MAKE OUR SONG LEADING EFFECTIVE. A song leader needs to know well in advance that he is to lead the singing so that he can have time enough to plan his part of the

worship. The song leader doesn't want to find out at the last minute that he is to lead any more than a preacher wants to find out at the last minute that he is to preach. There could be cases of emergency but for this to happen on a regular basis is without excuse. In planning the song service the song leader needs to use a variety of keys and rhythms. It is monotonous to sing the same key over and over. It is also dull to sing the same rhythm over and over.

ENTHUSIASM IS VITAL TO EFFECTIVE SONG LEADING. A quarterback on a football team who has an enthusiastic spirit can motivate his teammates to have the same enthusiasm he has about the game. A song leader who is sincerely enthusiastic will motivate the audience to have the same enthusiasm he has in his heart about singing praises to Almighty God.

IS THERE REALLY A GOD?

John Edwards

Absolutely, yes!

THE REALITY OF GOD IS AFFIRMED BY THE BIBLE. The Bible begins with God! "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). From the first verse to the last, the Bible holds up God as being real.

THE REALITY OF GOD MUST BE ACCEPTED BY FAITH. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

THE REALITY OF GOD IS SEEN BY THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20). "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world...." (Ps. 19:1-4). "I will

praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Ps. 139:14).

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...." (Ps. 14:1). Do you believe what the Bible says about God being real?

A BRIGHTER LIFE

"If you put away the sin that is in your hand and allow no evil to dwell in your tent, then, free of fault, you will lift up your face; you will stand firm and without fear. You will surely forget your trouble, recalling it only as waters gone by. Life will be brighter than noonday, and darkness will become like morning. You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety."

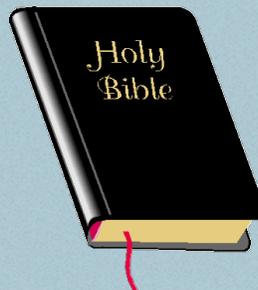
—Job 11:14-18, NIV

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