

Christian Warfare

Lesson 17: The Armor of God, Part 9

- I. The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, Eph 6.17. *Let's consider the weapon itself* and then next time we'll consider how to use it.
 - A. The Bible is the very Word of God, WCF 1.1-5.
 1. Paul says it was breathed out by God, 2Tim 3.16.
 - a) *It's not* man's words into which God breathed life. *It's not* man's written expression and explanation of ideas put into their heads by God. The Bible *IS* the Word of God, Mt 5.18.
 - b) Every word is the perfect product and declaration of His mind, which He used real men to record—men personally and directly involved in the product, but as inspired instruments so superintended by the Spirit of God that nothing of their fallenness or humanness corrupted it, 2Pet 1.21; 1Cor 2.13.
 2. The 10 Commandments were the first words written by God. Before that, He declared His mind by dreams, visions, and direct revelations to faithful witnesses, who in turn instructed others, Job 4.12-16; 8.8-10; 15.17-18; Ex 3.13-17.
 3. But after the Lord raised up a people in Egypt and determined to fulfill His promises to them, He began to commit His will to writing, first with the Commandments on stone, and then with Moses' inspired record of both the history of the world and the history of redemption.
 4. And then, when the Word was finished by Christ's apostles, God put a curse on any who would tamper with it until the end of time, Rev 22.18-19.
 5. Thus *the Bible is the Word and will of God to men*. It's to be received as God's Holy Book, with all the necessary attributes and characteristics that *God's authoring* gives it, *namely, inspiration, inerrancy, authority, sufficiency, perspicuity, and finality*. It contains the *whole* mind of God for men until Christ comes, and it contains a *perfect and complete* rule for faith and life, WSC 2-3.
 6. And it's *because* it's the Word of God Himself, spoken authoritatively to man, that every other authority is subject to it and judged by it. Nothing on earth is able to stand in judgment over it as a rule to prove its authorship. Rather, it *declares* its authorship and then in turn *evidences* and *testifies* to it. In this way, it's self-authenticating and self-attesting.
**So let's take some time to appreciate some of the remarkable ways in which the Bible evidences its authorship.
 - B. God's authorship is evidenced by the subject matter handled in the Bible.
 1. The historical parts.
 - a) Gen 1-2 reveals the history of creation.
 - b) Ps 2.7-9; 89.19-37; Isa 49.5-6; Eph 1.3-12; and Heb 7.20-25 reveal the eternal decree and the covenant of redemption between the Father and the Son.
 - c) The human authors objectively record their own sins. They expose their own shame and nakedness to the world. For example, Moses writes of his disobedience in not circumcising his son, Ex 4.24-26, of his reluctance to obey God in Ex 4.10-17, of his unbelief and disobedience to God in striking the rock in Num 20.10-12, and of his impatience and murmuring at the troubles in his service to Israel, Num 11.10-15.
 2. The prophetic parts.

- a) All the prophecies of Scripture are testimonies of God's authorship as the One who stands on the hill of eternity and knows not only the end from the beginning but also all the means and steps He's pleased to take to it.
 - b) Consider the prophecies given to Abraham regarding his seed, how they would be so numerous, how they would live in Egypt for 430 years and then, without any military experience, would go out of Egypt, overcome the Canaanites, and possess their land, Ex 12.40-41, 51; Jos 5.9-12.
 - c) Consider all the prophecies of Christ's coming, especially those that seem so insignificant, like His riding on a donkey into Jerusalem, His being betrayed by a close friend for thirty pieces of silver, and His bones being preserved unbroken. Only an infinite, omniscient, sovereign God with a fixed and eternal purpose for all things could know of these little hinges upon which so much of history and redemption depended.
 - d) And remarkably, though Satan knew of these prophecies when they were first recorded, and had countless years and instruments on hand to prevent them, not one of them could be thwarted or even altered, Mt 5.18.
3. The doctrinal parts.
- a) Who could tell us of God's nature and being and name, but God, 1Cor 1.21?
 - b) Who could discern all the wonders of the gospel message and all that Christ worked for His Church as their Mediator before God in heaven, but God?
 - c) Who could know what Christ was doing in heaven now for us and what He has in store for us for all eternity, but God?
4. The preceptive parts.
- a) Just consider the vast extent of its commands and how the Bible dares to command not one race or one nation or one age of men, but all men in all places for all time. None has the authority or even the knowledge to do that but God.
 - b) And consider how the law of God has been written not only in the Bible, but on the heart of every man alive.
 - c) Moreover, God's laws bind the whole man—something no man has the power to do. They bind the heart and its affections, desires, motives, and intentions, the mind and its thoughts and reason, the conscience and its inner witness to men, the will and all its deeds, the mouth and all its words, Heb 4.12.
- C. God's authorship is evidenced by the effects produced by the Bible on men, Ps 29.
- 1. The Bible searches the heart, Heb 4.12-13; Jer 17.9-10; 1Jn 3.20; 1Cor 14.25. The Word of God comes into a man's heart without permission and stands there in the middle of his hidden thoughts. Often our secret motives and sins are revealed by the preached Word as if the preacher had looked through a window into our heart.
 - 2. The Bible convicts and cleanses the conscience, Ps 19.14; Jn 8.7; Acts 2.37; Heb 9.14; 10.19-22.
 - 3. The Bible comforts a dejected spirit, Ps 42.11; 94.19.
 - 4. The Bible converts the soul, Rom 10.17; Mt 11.4-5; Rom 1.16; Tit 3.3-5.
 - 5. The Bible sanctifies the converted, Ps 19.7-11; Acts 20.32; Eph 4.11-16; 1Pet 2.1-6.
- D. God's authorship is only recognized and believed by a gracious work of the Spirit in our hearts, WCF 1.5; 1Cor 2; Jn 10.27; Pss 19.7-14; 119.
- II. Why is this sword attributed to the Spirit?
- A. The Spirit is the only true Interpreter of it to us, 1Cor 2.11-16; 2Pet 1.20-21; Acts 2.14-36.
 - B. Only the Spirit can bring the Word to our hearts with convicting, illuminating, saving, and sanctifying power, Lk 4.18-19; 1Cor 2.4-10.
 - C. The Spirit's work and mission from Christ are *tied* to the Word, Jn 16.13-14; 1Cor 2.1-5.