

Bible Doctrines I
Fundamental Bible Baptist Institute
Class Six
The Doctrine of the Bible

Text: II Corinthians 4:4-6 *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. **For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**”*

Review: Thus far in this course, we have studied the doctrine of the Bible. We have studied the inspiration, the preservation, the canonization, and the translation of the Word of God. Today, we will bring our last lesson on the Doctrine of the Bible. We are going to study the Illumination of the Word of God.

V. ILLUMINATION OF THE BIBLE

- A. The Definition of Biblical Illumination: *“Biblical illumination is the process by which the Holy Spirit helps a person to understand the truth of God's Word.”* Inspiration, Preservation, Canonization, and Translation would be worthless without Illumination. The Bible teaches us that the natural man is blind to himself, his sin, his spiritual condition, and to the Scriptures. It takes the Spirit of God coupled with the Scriptures to illuminate him to these things.
- B. The Doctrine of Biblical Illumination:
1. A sinner is blind. He cannot understand the things of God.
 - a. I Corinthians 2:6-14: These verses clearly teach that the sinner is not able to understand the Scriptures.
 - b. Romans 8:5-8 establishes that those that are *“after the flesh”* do mind the things of the flesh.
 - c. Ephesians 2:1-3 makes it clear that before we were saved, we were dead in trespasses and sins. A dead man cannot understand life; he cannot comprehend life!
 - d. Ephesians 4:17-19 teach that the understanding of a man is darkened, thus alienating him from the life of God, because of the blindness of his heart.
 2. The Scriptures are light:
 - a. Psalm 119:130 says *“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”*
 - b. Psalm 19:8 *“The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.”*
 - c. Psalm 119:105 says *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*
 - d. II Peter 1:19 *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.”*
 3. The Spirit of God turns on the Light in the darkened heart of the sinner: The Word of God is the light and the Holy Ghost is the Person Who turns the light on!
 - a. II Corinthians 4:6 ***“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”***
 - b. I Corinthians 2:10 makes it clear that God reveals His Word through His Spirit: *“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”* While the context of this verse deals with

- the work of illumination in the heart of the believer, it is nonetheless the work of the Holy Ghost Who Alone illuminates the darkened heart of the unbeliever to his sinful state, his condemnation before God, and his need for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c. John 16:7-14 explains exactly how the Holy Spirit of God illuminates the believer. He reproves (convinces) the sinner of his sin; of his lack of righteousness and the sufficiency of the righteousness of Jesus Christ; and of “*judgment to come*” through the truth of God’s Word. Until a man is convinced that he is a sinner, deserving of judgment, and in need of the Lord Jesus Christ; he cannot be saved!
 - d. Without the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit of God, mankind would be left in utter spiritual darkness, helplessly and hopelessly lost! The soul winner must remember that it is the Holy Spirit Who illuminates the darkened heart of the sinner to the glorious light of the gospel. We must always use spiritual discernment, then, when dealing with sinners.
4. The Spirit of God also illuminates the believer to the truth of God’s Word. All the English grammar lessons in the world will not reveal the spiritual truths of God’s Word to the student without the enlightenment of the Holy Ghost.
- a. Once again, I Corinthians 2:4-14 explain this process. Read this passage thoroughly.
 - b. John 14:26 “*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*”
 - c. John 16:13 “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*”
 - d. “Nothing is understood in the New Testament (Scriptures) without direct spiritual illumination. Therefore, the true believer prays ‘*Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law*’.” – Herbert Lockyer *All the Doctrines of the Bible*

Conclusion: The Doctrine of the Scriptures demands Inspiration, Preservation, Canonization, and Translation. We could not have the infallible Word of God without these processes! But these processes would be of no value whatsoever without the work of illumination in the heart of the sinner and the saint. We thank the LORD for the work of the Spirit of God in all these processes.