

WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES, AND FOUND WANTING

John 8:1-11

May 24, 2015

“But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.” Galatians 3:22

The Bible is the most amazing book ever written. Perhaps this statement has been repeated so many times as to become a mere platitude. Yet in truth, it is an understatement. Its deniers must contend with facts regarding its authorship, content and history, its influence over humanity, its ethics and the accuracy of its fulfilled prophecies. These distinguish it from all other literature. Its power to humble, convict, indict, condemn, transform and deliver from condemnation set it apart from all other books. It is unique inasmuch as every person is “weighed in the balances and . . . found wanting” (Daniel. 5:27) when confronted with Scripture.

The Bible is the Word of God. Hundreds of times it makes this claim (II Timothy 3:16). Its accuracy, power and uniqueness demonstrate the claim, as do its fulfilled prophecies. Moreover, “the word of God is quick (living), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

This is shown in the event recorded in John 8:1-11. Everything Jesus spoke and wrote was the Word of God, carrying all the authority of Scripture. An adulterous woman was brought to Jesus by religious leaders who cited the Old Testament demand to stone adulterers. Their hypocrisy was exposed by Christ’s response, which He made by writing on the ground. They melted away in silence, exhibiting that His word is “living and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.” Christ’s words to those men and to the woman demonstrate that the Word of God:

1. Condemns us in our sin (John 8:4-5; Romans 3:20)
2. Cancels our condemnation for sin (John 8:11; Romans 3:24-26)
3. Silences our accuser and drives him away (John 8:9; Romans 8:33-34)
4. Exhorts us unto righteous living (John 8:11).

The event also demonstrates truths regarding Jesus Christ.

1. He did not come into this world to condemn (John 3:17; 8:11).
2. His speech was the Word of God (John 8:26, 38, 40).
3. He succeeds as advocate for His people (John 8:9, 10; I John 2:1).
4. Deliverance from sin and condemnation come from Christ alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:10-12).

God’s Word judges every person, and when examined by Scripture we are “tried in the balances and found wanting.” The only solution to this deficit is Jesus Christ. He was the only deliverer for the accused woman, and is the only deliverer of all who’ve broken His law. Looking to Him alone for that deliverance, the soul is delivered from sin and from hell.