

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:12-21 Confession of Faith, art 5-7 (2)

Singing: 308:1-3 – 438:2-4 – 323:1-4 – 251:1, 3

Introduction: All trouble on earth began with one subtle question. Gen. 3:1

A. We still face this troubling and deceit-sowing questioning: 2 Cor. 11:3

B. There is but one safeguard against this: *be in the WORD of God!*

THE FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (2)

I. Authority: they contain the *will of God*

II. Clarity: they contain *clearly* what we ought to believe

A. 2 Peter 3:15-16 is no good excuse for studying Scripture

1. Some parts of Scripture are hard to understand

2. He has promised in the *use of it* to grant His blessing: Ps. 19:7; 119:130

B. 2 Peter 1:10 does not teach a *common person* cannot interpret the Bible

1. Meaning of *private interpretation*

2. God commands us to search His Scriptures: John 5:39; Acts 17:11

C. What do you need for the right understanding of Scripture?

1. Consider Eph. 1:17-18; 1 Cor. 2:10-12; 2 Cor. 3:14-16' Luke 24:25-27, 45

2. Therefore do not open Scripture **without fervently praying to God**

a. use 2 Cor. 4:6 or Ps. 119:18 as His direction

b. be patient for 2 Peter 1:19 is His promises

III. Necessity: They only contain what we need to know and believe for salvation

A. *The BIBLE* is necessary to hear the Gospel

1. this characteristic is highlighted in Romans 10:13-17

2. Therefore Jesus gave His people the *commission* (Mark. 16:15)

B. The 'necessity' also means Bible is necessary to maintain your spiritual life

1. The teaching of Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2

C. The 'necessity' also means *we need Bible to know God & His will* (Art. 2, 5)

1. When born, we come with *some* knowledge of God: Rom. 1:19-20

2. When born, we come with *some* knowledge of God's will: Rom. 2:14-15

(IV. The Sufficiency of Scripture)

Reflection and Application

A. "Thus saith the LORD" ... *are you prepared to heed His Word?*

1. Note His amazing promises: Prov. 1:23; Act 2:38; 5:32

B. What if His Word are letters that are hard and seemingly irrelevant?

C. Consider David's response in Ps. 27:7-9

Blessed is the man that heareth me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting at the posts of my doors.
For whoso findeth me findeth life,
and shall obtain favour of the Lord.
Prov. 8:34-35