

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

SEPTEMBER 2014 – VOL. IV, NO. 9
CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

The Bible: God’s Only Book of . . .

*There are so many books available today,
we may forget how special and unique the Bible is.*

Experts say that we communicate more non-verbally than we do with words. But God communicates with man today only in the written words of the Bible---

God’s only book of law Some people say the Bible is not a rulebook, law, or moral code, but this is false (Gal. 5:19-23; 6:2; Js. 1:25; 4:12). The Bible is the only book that teaches us what God expects us to believe and practice.

God’s only book of promises (2 Pet. 1:3-4) Outside of the Bible, you cannot know of any promise God has made (to save, to punish, to end this earth). Study the Bible to learn to whom God has made promises, and

what He promised them.
God’s only book of prophecy The Bible is the only record of God’s prophecies (2 Pet. 1:19). Reading of events God predicted (Micah 5:2; Psa. 22; Daniel 2:44) to have evidence for faith (not blind faith) and a shield when doubt creeps in.

God’s only book of Himself Only in the Bible do we learn of God’s mind, character, and deeds (Heb. 1:1-2; Ps. 18, 19). Without these, we will imitate the mind, character, and deeds of flawed people and be lost. [Contact us for a free CD on this or other Bible subjects.]

In This Issue:

- *The Bible: God’s Only Book of . . .*
- *Love that Is From God*
- *The True Grace of God*
- *What is Doctrine?*

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Love That is From God

One of the weaknesses of the English language is that we use the same word (“love”) when talking about ice cream and our mother---those are very different kinds of “love.”

Love that is from God (revealed in Scripture) involves the way someone **thinks** and **acts** more than the way they **feel**. This is the love Jesus taught of in Matthew 22:37-39. John 3:16 teaches us of the love of God for sinners. He did not **send** Jesus because mankind stirred up exciting emotions in God but because God **knew** that man was lost in sin and could not escape it alone, and He **cared**. In the love of God, proper thoughts produce proper action and emotion.

We hope you remember this when you read our articles that deal plainly with modern sin (infant baptism, worship by playing songs, homosexuality, “fellowship halls”). We do not teach against these things primarily because of how we feel about them but because of what we learn about them from the Bible---they separate you from fellowship with God. **Knowing** that, we **care** about you, and so we **speak** the truth in love—the love that is from God.

The True Grace of God

Did you know there is such a thing as false grace?

If you are interested in understanding grace, you should read the book of 1 Peter. He ended the letter saying that in this letter he exhorted and testified *that this is the true grace of God in which you stand* (5:12), so everything in that book teaches us about the true grace of God. When you read this letter, you'll learn about Jesus' resurrection, the reality of heaven, fulfilled prophecies, God's people being a holy priesthood, obeying the government, proper dress, baptism that saves, the sin of intoxication, hospitality, and God's plan for leadership in each congregation. God's grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and live godly (Titus 2:11-12). God's grace makes this saving knowledge available and by faith, built upon solid evidence, we accept God's offer by accepting His teachings (John 12:48; 15:10, 14).

False grace exists when man changes what God offers, such as religion without a resurrected Savior, faith with no evidence, man-made priesthoods, little teaching on proper dress, or salvation before and without baptism. Do you know any religious groups offering "God's grace" in these ways? Beware—this is not the true grace of God, according to the apostle Peter.

... I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand. (1 Pet. 5:12)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: 7:00 PM

What is Doctrine?

Many religious groups are doing less "doctrinal preaching" today, believing "doctrine divides," but the Bible records the doctrine of Christ and the apostles (2 Jn. 9; Acts 2:42). What part of their message is not doctrine? Did their teachings cause unnecessary division?

Paul told Timothy: to warn people who teach another doctrine, that *some will depart from the faith, giving heed to... doctrines of demons*, and to *preach the word* though some people reject true (sound) doctrine (1 Tim. 1:3; 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:2-4). Notice in these verses that *the faith* and *the word* have the same meaning as *doctrine*—God's revelation.

You may hear Catholic doctrine (ex., infant baptism) or Protestant doctrine (ex., salvation by faith alone), but you do not read of those in Scripture. Man-made doctrines are the result of human traditions and authority. True doctrine is found only in the Bible. Our goal is not to spread "church of Christ doctrine" but only the original teachings (doctrines) of Jesus and the apostles, recorded in Scripture. Do these monthly articles teach any other doctrine? If so, tell us. If not, then learn and keep the doctrine of Christ.

Questions from this issue's articles:

1. Name something the Bible teaches us that we cannot know without the Bible.
2. Are feelings the most important part of love? Explain your answer.
3. When Peter wrote about the true grace of God, what were some topics he discussed?
4. What words have the same meaning as "doctrine"?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

* All past and current issues of *Truth and Reason* are available at our website—tell a friend!