

The Whole Counsel Of God

There is a notion, dare I say a heresy, being bandied about in evangelical circles these days of which I feel compelled to warn you. It is the mistaken idea that the New Testament is more important than the Old, and furthermore, that within the New Testament, that the "words of Jesus" are the most important words in the whole Bible. The "words of Jesus" are those that are found, in certain editions of the Bible, printed in red. In order to abrogate this erroneous teaching, I will direct you to the "words of Jesus" Himself; to the red ones.

- "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"(John 5:46-47)

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible; Old Testament books! Jesus points to these and tells us to study these first. Then, if you believe them, you'll believe "the red words". You must believe the creation account, the Fall of man, the world-wide flood, the tower of Babel, the miracles in the wilderness, and most of all, the Ten Commandments all of which we know, or should know, that Moses wrote under the inspiration and direction of God the Holy Spirit, who did not speak even on His own.

- Again, we read the in red print. "--He will not speak on His own; He will He will speak only what He hears--"(John 16:13) Jesus also speaks to us in words that His Father, Yahweh, told Him to utter."For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.---So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."(John 12:49-50) Of course, to real students of the Bible, this should come as no surprise. We read in Deuteronomy 18:18, that Yahweh says, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in His mouth, and He will tell them everything I command Him." That "prophet" was Jesus, the God/man.
- Next we read that Jesus reiterates this truth in John 14:24, where He tells His disciples, "These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."
- Finally, in Jesus own words, the red ones, as He prays to the Father, we read, "--I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them.--"(John 17:8)

As to the veracity of Old Testament teachings in this modern age, I would point the several doubters to the words of the apostle Paul, "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us--".(I Corinthians 10:11) The "things" that "happened" were the sins, the errors in judgement, the tests of faith, and the calamities. The word "them" refers to, Cain, Abraham, David, Job, Daniel, and many others. How can anyone say that the writing down of these lessons, these "warnings", in the pages of the Old Testament are unimportant?

To those who would still doubt the validity of the whole Bible, the whole counsel of God, I now direct your attention to these words, with which I close the discussion; "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."(II Timothy 3:16-17) When that was written, the only Scripture available was that which was found in the Old Testament.

Yours, because of grace, and the "whole counsel of God"; Dr
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