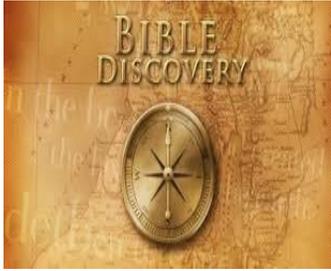


September 13, 2015

Psalm 19:7-11

## Standing on the Word of God



Kathy Lee Gifford, recently shared from her heart on the Today Show, returning after the loss of her husband, Frank Gifford, long time football star and ABC commentator, about *the centrality of their faith in God and the comfort God brings during the times of sadness*. She also spoke of the great faith Frank had which kept him humble and caring. In fact, having returned from a trip to the Holy Land some years ago where they visited the place where young David would have gathered the stones preparing for the battle with Goliath, Frank gave each of his children a simple stone at their graduation *as a reminder God is able, God provides as we choose to stand on His Word and place our trust in Him*.

I say this as September 13<sup>th</sup> is set aside as Grandparent's Sunday celebrates our grandparents and we realize all the benefit of Godly parents and grandparents rests on their willingness to walk in faith, humility and in knowledge of the Word of God. What a great responsibility and a wonderful privilege for us this is. As a writer of psalms, David tells us, "*The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey...*" [vv. 9-10]

As we read the words from Psalm 19, perhaps the thought crosses your mind it's well and good to have these words of scripture tell us about the wholesome goodness of God's Word but how can we measure the value of scripture for us today? Let me share a couple of quotes from prominent archeologists. Dr. Nelson Glueck is quoted as saying, "...It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries." (*Rivers in the Desert*, p. 31) And again, Dr. Joseph P. Free tells us, "...Archaeology has confirmed countless passages which have been rejected by critics as unhistorical or contradictory to known facts ... Yet archaeological discoveries have shown that these critical charges ... are wrong and that the Bible is trustworthy in the very statements which have been set aside as untrustworthy ... We do not know of any cases where the Bible has been proved wrong." (*Archaeology & Bible History*, pp. 1, 2, 134)

The Bible's the Word of God and is *powerful and life changing*. We can trust in standing on the Word of God. The promises of God are assured as at 2 Timothy 3:16 when God tells us that all Scripture in the Bible is inspired by God. With this promise of God in hand we can be assured what we learn in the Bible comes from Him and is useful to us to train, to admonish, to build up one another and to encourage one another! But before we pick and choose from God's Word, consider the timely advice Franklin Graham gives, "Christians cannot ignore parts of God's Word because they are unpopular or cause division. Our commission is to proclaim Christ and all He stands for. This is what the church's presence in the world is all about". (July 10, 2014)

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That's what it means to stand on the Word of God.

But standing on the Word of God is not through blind senseless faith chasing what we cannot see as when we were kids on the playground. Our faith in His Word is because it has demonstrated itself trustworthy and true. For instance, in a time when all men thought the earth was flat – a belief which persisted right through to Christopher Columbus – Isaiah 40:22 pronounces, God "*sits enthroned above the circle of the earth*". Today we've the benefit of pictures taken from space to show the earth's shape, *but how did Isaiah know?*

**Am I getting your attention?** Look back with me to the oldest book of the Bible, Job verse 26:7 "*He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; He suspends the earth over nothing*". In ancient times men believed

many errors – some believing the earth was held by four huge pillars; others considering the earth rested on the back of Atlas, so how did Job get it right? Then there’s Psalm 8:8. David writes of *“the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the sea”*. Men knew of no paths in the sea – believing the biblical account in Psalms to be folklore - until Matthew Maury, who later became superintendent of the Depot of Charts and Instruments of the U.S. Navy Department from 1842, read this verse and determined to find them. He discovered the ocean currents, and became known as the Father of Oceanography.

Look with me at Ecclesiastes 1:7 where we’re told, *“All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.”* Today we understand how this happens by the water cycle and evaporation. How did Solomon know?

Not only does the Word of God give us answers to how the world works and how it was formed but God gave many instructions for our safety. For instance, at Leviticus 11:33-36 He forbade drinking from vessels or stagnant water that had been contaminated by coming into contact with a dead animal. It’s only been in the last 100 years that medical science has learned contaminated water causes typhoid and cholera.



From the vantage point in our modern era of atomic power we look back to the fisherman Peter who anticipated atomic fission long before physicist Albert Einstein, stating for us, *“the elements will melt with fervent heat”* [2 Peter 3:12] indicating the earth and heavens are to be “dissolved” by tremendous fire. Today we understand if the elements of the atom are loosed, there’s an enormous release of heat and radiation. *But how did an uneducated fisherman 2,000 years before comprehend such?* Is there any doubt but that the answer was revealed by our Heavenly Father, the Creator of the universe?

Therefore, as science means knowledge and true science always agrees with the observable evidence, we see the great wealth of information available to us in Scripture. Scientific research today continues to unfold the wonders and mysteries of our universe. Interestingly, there’s one book that has acknowledged these scientific facts long before the scientists and experts of the world ever considered them. That book is the Bible – the Word of God. More than 100 scientific facts are found in the Scriptures. The Bible has contradicted unproved theories, but properly understood it has never contradicted any proved scientific fact. Yet it has often stated scientific truths centuries before men knew them. Such scientific foreknowledge – found only in the bible – offers to us one more piece of the collective proof that the Bible is truly the inspired Word of God.

While the Bible has been repeatedly proved accurate, there are always those ready to criticize the Bible yet they’ve been consistently unable to disprove God’s Inherent Word. This surely strengthens our faith in what the Bible teaches. For instance, in the Book of Exodus the Bible says Israelite slaves built Pithom and Rameses as Egyptian store cities using bricks of clay mixed with straw, then clay and stubble, then clay alone [see Exodus 1:11; 5:6-21]. It was always doubted that this was a true account until in 1883, when archeologist M. Naville examined the ruins of Pithom, identified as the modern archaeological site of Tell-el-Maskhuta, and found all three types of brick.



Again, until recently, there was no accepted evidence outside the Bible for the existence of King David. Then, on July 21, 1993, a team of archaeologists led by Prof. Avraham Biran, excavating Tel Dan in northern Galilee, found a triangular piece of basalt rock, which includes the words *Beit David* meaning "House" or "Dynasty" of David". It’s not conclusive; but it strongly suggests a king called David established a kingdom in Israel during the biblical period.

As well, Sir William Ramsay, a renowned scholar and scientist, and a skeptic, sought to disprove the Book of Acts by tracing Paul's journeys. Instead, his examination brought him to a firm belief in the accuracy of the book! The turning point came when he became convinced, contrary to accepted scholarship; the Bible was right where Acts 14:6 it implies Iconium was in a different region from Lystra & Derbe.

The Bible *is* the God-breathed Word of God of which we’ve no need to be ashamed, useful for us to stand upon and to live our lives as we’ve been called by God knowing that more than the amazing scientific facts it contains, the Word of God reveals to us the righteousness of God through His beloved Son, our Saviour Jesus

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Christ. Therefore it's no surprise *life's ultimate questions are all answered within its pages*. The Bible even reveals the purpose of our existence. And no other source explains the root cause of death. Seeing all die, wouldn't it be wise to search in the *only book* providing undeniable evidence the remedy was given to us by God? Yes, the Bible offers the only remedy for sin, suffering, and death. God's Word presents the only perfect, sinless Saviour – the One who died for your sins and mine, rose from the dead, and is sitting today with the Father and interceding on our behalf.

## **WHAT DECISION WILL YOU MAKE?**

So what decision will you make today regarding ***your stand*** on the Word of God? Are you willing to let the sweet fragrance of the knowledge of Him spread through you so the aroma of Christ brings you the essence of life itself? Are you ready to be followers of the Word; lead by Christ? The Apostle Paul warns us, *"If anyone teaches false doctrines (using philosophies or dogma contrary to the Word of God) and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing."* [1 Timothy 6:3-4] Let me assure you Jesus is found in every book on every page of the Bible. Let His sweet fragrance pour out upon you today! As the Living visible representation of our Invisible Omnipotent God, Jesus ***is*** trusted as the source of all scripture.

Franklin Graham said it well last year when he reminded us,

***"We are soldiers in God's army, and we cannot stand down on biblical issues out of fear of being labeled a homophobe or judge. People make judgments every day. The world's system passes judgments accepted by governments and citizens. But the world considers Christian judgment to be biased, judgmental and intolerant. Christians have only one standard on which to base judgments—it is called the Bible. Without its instruction and authority, we cannot possibly know how to live, so we are told to "judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). It does not matter how mankind defines sin; the ironclad Word of God has already laid it bare, and it is unchangeable."***

These brief facts supporting the authenticity and dependability of the scriptures is able to do nothing for you unless you are ready to stand on the Word of God against all other philosophies and teachings. When you consider that God's Word alone remains against all the error and critical thinking the world may throw its way, you can have confidence in scripture not only being capable of sustaining the historical, scientific and archeological evidence of God's glorious world, but it will demonstrate to you the God's Word is sufficient for training you and sustaining your life as you continue to walk with Jesus through the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

Give us a call or drop and email and let us know your thoughts.

***Blessings,***  
***Pastor Dave***