

How can we know what is right in religion?

Modern religions use many different sources for their authority in religion: disciplines, manuals, creed books, latter day revelations, and utterances of men. These come from man, not from God. The Bible teaches free, diligent, and unprejudiced study of the scriptures as the all-sufficient guide in matters of faith and practice.

Jesus taught that God's will was in his teaching. He said, "If any man wills to do his will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or *whether* I speak from myself (John 7:17)." The power of the truth of God makes us free from sin. In John 8:32, Jesus taught, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jesus said, "Sanctify them in the truth: your word is truth (John 17:17)." Paul calls this word the gospel of our salvation: "In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation (Eph 1:13)." The truth will lead us to God's truth and our salvation.

Since God's truth is in scriptures, we should seek our answers by searching the scriptures. Jesus showed that searching the scriptures reveals knowledge of eternal life, "You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me (John 5:39)." The scriptures are the source and the method is searching. Acts 17:11 describes Christians who did just that: "They received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so." The teaching is plain. To know the truth, search the scriptures with a ready mind.

How sufficient are the scriptures? Paul wrote in 2 Tim 3:16-17: "Every scripture inspired of God (is) also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." The scriptures, the all-sufficient word of God, make us complete and furnish us completely to every good work.

Will there be new revelations? Jude said, "Contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Paul warned in Gal. 1:8-9, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema." John warned, "If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city (Rev 22:19)."

The scriptures are our all-sufficient guide in matters of faith and practice for all time.