

Sunday 8 April 2018

Why bother with the Bible?

(Part 1)

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Introduction

1. A famous evangelist died on Wednesday 21 February

Billy Graham: 1918 - 2018

2. What were Billy Graham's famous words?

“The Bible says.....”

3. Two football teams meet for a game of football

One says: *“Oh! I forgot to bring the football”*

Another says:

“Don't let's bother about that, just get on with the game”.

4. Why bother with the Bible?

Let's just get on with the Christian life

Let's just get with the Church service

4. *“Why bother with the Bible”*: it is seen in:-.....

Lack of interest in serious Bible study

Lack of Biblical exposition in preaching

People not bringing their Bibles to Church

Lack of interest in Bible exposition, doctrine, theology.

6. Something Essential

What you have to say to God is less important than....

What God has to say to you

What the Bible has to say to you is more important than....

What you have to say to God in prayer and worship

“Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few”. (Ecc1 5:2)

Why bother with the Bible?

1. Because the Bible is special

1. How many Books are there in the Bible?

The Bible is ONE Book with 66 sections

The Bible is not a library of unrelated Books

2. The Bible has ONE message / theme

The message is: - Salvation

Abraham - via the cross- to the Second Coming:

How to get right with God

3. The Bible has two sections: OT / NT
400 years between Malachi & Matthew
(400 years between Genesis and Exodus)

4. Written by 40 men over a period of 1500 years
Kings: Prophets: Leaders: Captain: Fisherman:
Doctor: Accountant: Apostle / Missionary:
Disciple: Brother of Jesus, and others

5. In the Old Testament Christ is foretold
In the Gospels Christ has come
In the Epistles Christ is explained
In Revelation Christ is expected

6. How should we READ the Bible?

Read or Study ???????

Read / Study the Bible backwards:-

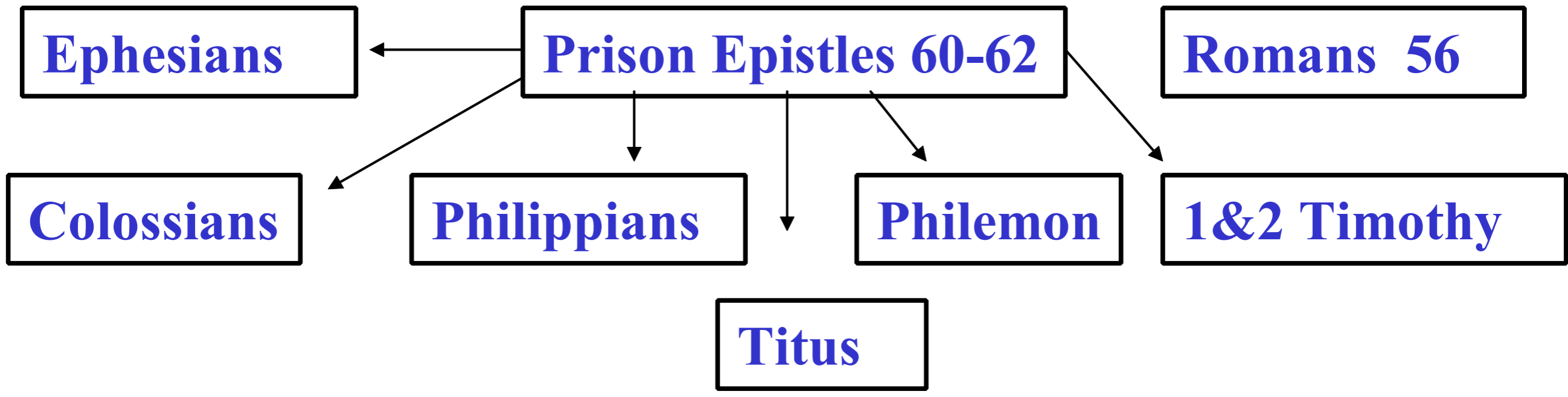
- 1] Read the Text book first: Explanations: EPISTLES
- 2] Read the GOSPELS to see the explanation in history
- 3] Read the OLD TESTAMENT to see the plot-line

Do you know
How the NT was formed????

Did you know
The Letters were written

BEFORE

The Gospels????



Why bother with the Bible?

2. Because the Bible is Unique

1. The Author is God: 2 Tim 3:16

Words “*Breathed out by God*”

“*men spoke from God...carried along by the Holy Spirit*”

2 Pet 1:21

(e.g. as a ship is “*carried*” by winds & currents **Acts 27:15**)

“*No prophecy (OT & NT) had its origin in the will of man*”

vs 21

“*No prophecy (OT & NT)*” is the writers “*own interpretation*”

vs 20

2. But why bother with the Old Testament????

Is the OT as inspired by God as the NT?

Yes. Because it is the same Word of God:-

“The word of the Lord came to.....” (**Jer 1:2**)

“God said.....” (**Gen 1:3**)

“The Lord has spoken.....” (**Isaiah 1:20**)

3. What did Jesus THINK of the OT?

Jesus quotes the OT 45 times

Jesus never quoted from the OT Apocrypha

Jesus never criticised the OT

Jesus did not say the OT was wrong

4. What did Jesus SAY about the OT?

*"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfil. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished". **Matt 5:17-18***

“smallest letter or stroke”



5. Jesus accepted and taught the WHOLE of the OT

“Moses, Prophets and Writings” **Luke 24:27 (44)**

This is the Hebrew OT divisions

“Moses” = Genesis - Deuteronomy

“Prophets” = 1 Sam - 2 Kings, major & minor Prophets

“Writings” = Psalms, Job, Prov, Ruth, Song, Eccl, Lam,
Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 & 2 Chron

For Jesus the Bible was Genesis - 2 Chronicles

For us Genesis - Malachi

6. Something Essential

What you believe about the OT
says what you believe about Christ

If you doubt the authority of the OT
You doubt the integrity, deity of Christ

If you question the OT
You question Jesus' view of the OT

Therefore, you question the authority of Christ

Therefore, if Jesus was wrong about the OT
He could be wrong about His other teachings

You cannot hold a Divine Saviour and a mistaken OT

You have.....

A mistaken OT and a non-Divine Saviour

Or you have.....

A God-inspired OT and a Divine Saviour

7. Jesus said:

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life"

(John 14:6)

Do you believe Jesus is "*the Truth*" ?

Do you believe Jesus does NOT mislead us ?

Then you **MUST** believe the OT is the Truth

Why bother with the Bible?

3. Because it is our only standard

1. The Bible is our standard for DOCTRINE and PRACTICE

The “*Canon*” means the authorised OT & NT sections

The “*Canon*” (Greek Kanon) Meaning:-

“ruler or standard used for measuring”

A ruler: set square: plum-line:

2. Accuracy is measured by this standard rule

The Bible becomes our ruler

Measure every doctrine; every practice; every belief

4. The Canon (Bible) measures:-

Your Doctrinal belief

The meaning of the Gospel

Whether you really are a Christian

What God requires of you in Holiness

5. With the Bible we “Guard” the truth

“Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care”

1 Tim 6:20

The Gospel is always under attack

“The Bible says.....” must be our reply

Why bother with the Bible?

4. Because it is so useful

1. A large Bible is useful for pressing flowers!

The Bible is very “*profitable*” **2 Tim 3:16**

“*Profitable*” = “*Useful; advantageous; beneficial; helpful*”

The Bible has its many uses

The Bible is to be USED by Christians

2. What are these uses? **2 Tim 3:15-17**

First: Useful for “*Salvation*”: “*wise for salvation*”: **vs 15**

“*Salvation*” means, deliverance, rescue

To know how to escape Hell and gain Heaven

Second: Useful for the purpose of “*Teaching*” **vs 16**

Doctrine: Instruction: Learning:

(Note: “*Teaching*” comes immediately after “*Salvation*”)

Third: Useful for the purpose of Sanctification: **vs 16**

“*Reproof; correction; Training in righteousness*”

Exposing sin: Holiness:

3. To Summarise **vs 17**

“so that the man / woman of God should always be adequately equipped for the purpose of every good work”:

“equipped” means “competent, furnished, prepared”

The Bible is good for all Spiritual Problem Solving

Read & Study the Bible to find your answers

Psalm 19:7-9

*“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the
commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether”.*

Why bother with the Bible?

Conclusion

1. View your Bible as a Gift from God
God did not leave you to fumble your way back to Him
God did not leave you to the mercy of philosophy
2. God did not give you a leaflet: magazine: newspaper
God gave you a Book with 66 sections
3. Let us value our Bibles as the Psalmist said:-

“I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold”
Psalm 119:27

3. Listen to John Wesley:-

“I want to know one thing,—the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach me the way. For this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God!”

So.....

Why bother with the Bible???????