

1. The Foundation of Divine Truth

“Every true doctrine makes Christ the center, every precept receives force from His words.”-6T 54. “Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:11. “Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.” Matthew 7:24, 25.

SELECTED REFERENCES

GC 593-602; FE 123-137; M11 458-466; [1] Pages 68-110. [2] Pages 4-25.

Memorize: Romans 15:4.

A. THE OBJECT AND AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Romans 10:17; John 17:3; Matthew 4:4.

“There is no sure doctrine but such as is conformable to the word of God: that the Lord forbids the teaching of any other doctrine; that each text of the Holy Scriptures ought to be explained by other clearer texts. . . . This word is the only truth; it is the sure rule of all doctrine and of all life, and can never fail or deceive us.”-From the Protest of the Princes at Spire; quoted in “History of Protestantism,” by J. A. Wylie, Vol. I, P. 550.

“In our time there is a wide departure from their [the Scriptures] doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protestant principle - the Bible, and the Bible only, as the rule of faith and duty.” - GC 204, 205.

“God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines, and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority. Not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain ‘Thus says the Lord’ in its support.” - GC 595.

“In His word, God has committed to men the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an authoritative, infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience.” - GC, Introduction, vii.

“Protestantism sets the power of conscience above the magistrate, and the authority of the word of God above the visible church.” - GC 204. “It is not enough to know what others have thought or learned about the Bible. Every one must in the judgment give account of himself to God, and each should now learn for himself what is truth.” - Ed 188. “If the Bible is a revelation from God, it must be consistent with itself; and . . . as it was given for man’s instruction, it must be adapted to his understanding.” - GC 319.

“Everything we believe as doctrine, everything we do as duty, and everything we observe as worship, must have this authority, ‘The Master says it.’ All tampering with Scripture as the sole and sufficient rule of faith and practice, and all tampering with conscience as bound by that rule, is a guilty resistance of the authority of Christ, and a perilous thing to our welfare.” - John Angel James.

B. RULES FOR LEARNING DIVINE TRUTH.

2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Corinthians 2:9, 10; Psalm 119:18.

“The true object of real Bible study is to bring us into personal contact with this infinite God. We are to see Him in the beauty and glory of His character, and to experience more than a theoretical companionship. The very knowing of God in this way brings eternal life with all its great possibilities and inspirations into the soul of him who has made this living contact with the living God. . . . if the Bible gives us this living experience of our consciousness of God, and of His companionship, we are reaching the goal of the great privileges that God sets before the individual in His inspired Book.” - A. O. Tait, editorial in the Signs of the Times, Oct. 22, 1929.