

What Missionary Baptists Believe About...

The Doctrine of the Scriptures

--If it is not a message from God, then it has no more right to be heard more than any other book.

--If it is a message from God, it **must** be fervently believed & proclaimed by men.

- No other book has been so vigorously attacked by Satan. Satan attacks the Bible because it clearly reveals: 1) His origin. 2) His wicked nature, rebellion & fall. 3) His evil deeds and plans. 4) And finally his doom. **The less one knows about Satan, the easier it is for Satan to deceive people.**
- There are some things about the Bible that are foundational truths of our faith. These we must understand & believe and know that Satan opposes them all.

I. THE FORMATION OF THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is a library of 66 books
 - a. 39 in the Old Testament
 - b. 27 in the New Testament
 - c. The Bible is not a haphazard collection of writings, but is purposeful with each book necessary to the whole library.
2. II Tim 3:16,17 -- God is the author of the Bible, but he employed many human writers. II Peter 1:21; Jer 36:1-4; II Sam 23:2
 - a. The Bible was written over a period of about 1500 years.
 - b. About 40 different writers were used of God.
 1. They lived in different countries
 2. They spoke different languages
 3. They had different backgrounds
 4. They had different professions (Doctor, King, Tax Collector, Fisherman, etc.)
 - c. The writers claimed to be writing the words of the Lord. Compare Ex 20:1 & Ex 24:4.
 - d. When the books were placed together they were so completely harmonious one might think that it was written by one person. Why?
3. The division of the Bible
 - a. Luke 24:44 - Jesus divided the Old Testament: Law, Prophets, and Psalms.
 - b. The New Testament has three logical divisions: History, Doctrine, and Prophecy.

II. EVIDENCE THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S BOOK

1. The Bible claims divine origin. II Tim 3:15; II Peter 1:21; Heb 4:12; Luke 1:70
 - a. The Bible is the Word of God communicated to men.
 - b. The words in the Bible came from God.
2. It has survived the attempts to destroy it.
3. Other evidences that it is from God:
 - a. It's power -- Heb 4:12
 - b. It's depth, yet simplicity -- I Cor 2:10-14; John 14:26
 - c. The scope of it's subject matter
 - d. It's continual up-to-dateness -- Heb 13:8
 - e. It's accurately fulfilled prophecies
 - f. It's harmony
 - g. Even man's "science" from time to time "discovers" something that confirms what God had already said in his Word. Is 40:22; Deut 12:23

III. CHARACTER OF THE BIBLE

1. The writings are Holy Writings. II Tim 3:15
2. The Bible is God's complete revelation to man.
 - a. It is our ALL SUFFICIENT RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE. II Tim 3:16,17; Ps 119:105
 - b. No other book reveals God's nature and purposes
 - c. It's truths reveal the nature of man
3. It is infallible – No mistakes, errors or contradictions
 - a. The Bible is our ONLY perfect STANDARD

IV. THE PURPOSE OF THE SCRIPTURES

1. II Tim 3:15-17
 - a. For Doctrine (Teaching) – Truth (John 5:39); Man's Condition (Rom 3:23; 6:23); Salvation (Eph 2:8,9; Rom 10:9,10,13)
 - b. For Reproof (Showing the Error)
 - c. For Correction (Fixing the Error)
 - d. For Instruction (Continuing in Righteousness) – Guidance (Ps 119:105); How to Live (Ps 1:1,2)
 - e. For History – Rom 15:4; I Cor 10:6,11; II Peter 2:6
2. The scriptures can be learned by considering to what they are compared to
 - a. They open and reveal as a sword – Heb 4:12
 - b. They purge as fire – Jer 5:14; 23:29
 - c. They break stubborn wills like a hammer – Jer 23:29
 - d. They reveal as a mirror – James 1:23-25
 - e. They cleanse as water – Eph 5:26,27; John 15:3

- f. They produce as a seed – Luke 8:11-15
- g. They are essential to health as bread – Mt 4:4
- h. They are strengthening as milk and nourishing as meat – I Cor 3:2; Heb 5:12-14

V. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SCRIPTURES

1. It is imperative that we keep the message TRUE to the BIBLE. II Tim 4:2-4
 - a. Preach the Word
 - b. It is the only message worth preaching
 - c. Popular demand has caused many to adjust their message to fit the changing times, but the church is to hold forth the Word of God without fear or compromise.
2. To know and teach the Bible is more important than food to eat. Mt 4:4; Job 23:12
3. To walk without the Word is to walk in darkness. Ps 119:11, 105
 - a. The Word is precaution against sin – Ps 119:11
 - b. The Word gives light – Ps 119:130
4. The importance is seen in that they point men to Christ, the only way to life – John 5:39; Acts 4:12
 - a. It is an essential part in the salvation of the soul – Ps 19:7; I Pet 1:22,23

Conclusion:

What do Missionary Baptists believe about the scriptures? What do you believe about the scriptures? The Bible IS God's revelation to man. It has ONE message that runs through it. The message is of God's great love for sinful man, of the gift of his Son, of his provision of salvation and of his righteous purpose perfectly satisfied at Calvary.

It is God-given, inspired and is therefore authoritative & absolutely trustworthy!

Let us: Love it
 Believe it
 Practice it
 Defend it
 Pass it on to others!