

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE (NIV)

1. 2 Timothy 3.16-17

- 'All Scripture' *Cannot pick and choose.*
- 'God-breathed' *Inspired. Our final standard of authority.*
- 'Useful' *Must be applied to our whole life.*
- 'Thoroughly equipped' *The Bible is all we need to know and do God's will.*

2. Hebrews 4.12,13

- 'Living and active' *The Bible is both relevant and powerful.*
- 'Penetrates' *Sharp! Cuts to the core of our being.*
- 'Judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart' *Painful, but for our good.*
- 'Must give an account' *Be judged by the word now or by God himself later!*

3. John 8:31-32

- To those 'who had believed Him'. *Mere belief or intellectual agreement is not enough.*
- 'If you hold' *We must obey the teachings of Jesus to be a true disciple.*
- 'The truth will set you free' *Especially from sin (v.34).*

4. James 1.22-25

- 'Deceive yourselves' *We are not righteous just because we read the Bible*
- Like 'a mirror' *Without application Bible study is useless*
- 'Looks intently' *Diligent, not half hearted*
- 'Not forgetting, but doing it' *Perseverance*

5. 2 Timothy 4.1-4

- 'In the presence of God' *Very serious, very urgent*
- 'A great many teachers' *False teachers are everywhere*
- 'Itching ears' *Because of sin, sentimentality, etc*

6. Mark 7: 6-8

- 'Traditions of men': *Teachings or creeds that contradict or supersede the Scriptures.*
- *Worship by traditions = 'hearts far from God', 'worship me in vain', 'rules taught by men'*
- Note: Sincerity does not equal truth. Religious people can be wrong.

7. Galatians 1.6-9

- a. 'A different gospel' = *Saved by works instead of grace*
- b. 'Even if we or an angel' *Must know the truth in order not to be deceived*
- c. 'Eternal condemnation' *God means business!*

8. John 12:47-48

- 'I do not judge' *Jesus came to save us. However...*
- 'There is a judge' *Jesus' very own words will be our judge on the last day.*
- Note: We should know the words we will be judged by!

9. Matthew 4.1-11

- 'Every word' *Jesus believed the entire Bible (OT) is God's word..*
- 'It is written' *Therefore, even Jesus completely depended on the Scriptures.*

10. Acts 17.10-11

- 'Noble character' = 'great eagerness', 'examined the Scriptures', 'every day'
- 'If what Paul said was true' *Even the words of respected religious leaders must be carefully scrutinized.*

- **Decision:** Will I live by the Bible or by my feelings, the traditions of men, personal comfort etc...?
- **Further study:** Proverbs 2.1-5; Isaiah 66.1-2; Titus 2.15; Revelation 22.18-19; 2 Peter 3.14-17; 1 Timothy 4.16-17