

Christ and the Bible

Jesus held Scripture in highest esteem. "It is written" was his shield against the fiery darts of the tempter (Matthew 3:3; 4:4,7,10). In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus did not correct any teachings of the Old Testament; he only pointed out the superficial and false interpretations of the rabbis. "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled" (Matthew 7:17,18).

When questioned about divorce, he directed his inquirers to the ethical teaching of the written Word: "Have you not read?" he asked them. When he desired to teach them about his divinity, he quoted from the Psalms and said: "How then does David in the Spirit call Him Lord?" To correct the Sadducees' theological errors, he pointed to their basic problem: "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God" -- and then referred them to the book of Exodus. Jesus also used Scripture to meet the Jews' accusation of blasphemy when he claimed to be the Son of God: "Is it not written in your law ... the Scripture cannot be broken." To teach the meaning of his death to the disciples, "beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Matthew 19:4; 22:41ff; 22:29ff; John 10:34,35; Luke 24:27).

Jesus considered the Scriptures as God's living word to every generation. He said to his contemporaries, "But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God?" (Matthew 22:31) and proceeded to quote a portion of Scripture, specifically from the book of Exodus. Though written centuries before, that scripture was relevant to their situation and useful in their own time. Jesus didn't tell them, "God said to Moses" (though the words were originally addressed to him), but, "God said *to you*"! Even so, what we read in Scripture is God speaking to us today.

What Scripture says and what God says amount to the same thing. Consequently, there cannot be a higher authority than Scripture, as there cannot be a higher authority than God.

The Lord Jesus Christ considered Scripture as the sure, authentic and authoritative Word of God. As His disciples, we should adopt the same attitude towards the Holy Bible. We should draw our teachings from Scripture, and walk in its light. In doing so, we would be taught by God to find salvation and live according to his will.