**CHRISTCOMPANIONBIBLECHURCH**

**Weekly Bible Study**

***Branch: Headquarters Date:14/05/2024***

  **THE BIBLE: THE MINES OF GREAT TREASURES (Part2). Study 15.**

**TEXT:** Luke 1:34-45.

**MEMORY VERSE:Psalm 68: 11**

 The Bible messages are not fictions or made to believe stories. They are God's words meant to inform, transform and eventually translate man to heaven, where he will shine in glory in His presence forever! At creation, the human's heart was made to crave after God. i.e., ***"the inclination or affinity to sense and seek God” Deuteronomy*** 4:29

 This believes system was exploited by Satan to deceive Eve, and by extension Adam in Eden. To help man overcome erroneous beliefs is the reason for valid documentation of the truth, to guide the faithful believers on the path of truth, righteousness and holiness. The Bible therefore, is God's idea and initiative to make His true word available to mankind.

**HOW GOD GAVE THE BIBLE TO MAN. ISAIAH 55:11; PSALM 68:11.**

 Your confidence in any national currency is due to certain information, logos, signatures and seals etc. that validate its originality. Every child of God must develop deep root and assurance in the Bible, not only to read, study or preach it, but to obey and perform its injunctions. Your knowledge of the authenticity of God's word builds your faith and profitability in Christ.

 How does the Bible get to us?

**1. God speaks directly through His called, chosen and anointed men. 2 Peter 1:16-21.** The Bible is written by men raised by God and anointed by the Holy Spirit for the work. These were men from various walks of life: Prophets, kings, shepherd, scholars, farmers etc.

 **2. The Bible consists of 66 books, divided into two parts. (a) 39 books of the Old Testament. It has three major divisions:** The law (Pentateuch), the Prophet, and the historical books. (b) 27 books of the New Testament. It has four divisions: The gospels, the Acts, the Epistles and the Revelation. About 40 authors were inspired to write the Bible over a period of time, spanning nearly 1500 years. Yet, their messages agreed in one, despite the fact that they lived at different time and dispensations. The same Holy Spirit worked in them to work out His counsel for all generations.

**3. The Bible originally was not as we have it today.**

*i. Some authors like Moses wrote on stones, some on Egyptian's papyrus and others on primitive writing materials available at their time.*

*ii. The Bible parts came in different languages, such as Aramaic, Hebrew Greek and Latin, depending on the author’s background and educational status.*

*ii. The chapters division commonly used today were developed by Stephen Langton, an Archbishop of Canterbury. Langton put the modern chapters division into place in around A.D. 1227. The Wycliffe English Bible of 1382 was the first Bible to use this chapter pattern. Since the Wycliffe Bible, nearly all Bible translations have followed Langton’s chapters division*.

**4. In some Christian circle, (especially Catholic Church), there are additional books to the main Bible called Apocrypha, but not of the Hebrew canon, recognised by the Jews, they are not considered as authentic part of the Scripture, and are rejected by Protestants.**

 Also, other books like seven book of Moses are not acceptable for use by heaven minded Christians. The authorship and authority of these books are doubtful as inspired word of God.

**5. At some point in history, the Bible was not available for general use as we have it today.** Some men fought and sacrificed to the extent of giving their lives as stake to translate and circulate the Bible as to make it available. Among these were:

*i. William Tyndale: He was condemned to be burnt to death in October 6, 1536, by the religious power of his time for translating the Bible to English for all believers use.*

*ii. John Rogers: He also was condemned and martyred by burning in February 4, 1555 for Bible translation and circulation!*

 Yet, these men’s dreams eventually materialised as God raised Kings and nobles to translate, print and circulate the word of life. Hallelujah!

**6. The preservation of the Bible over thousands of years down through the ages is a divine wonder!** For example:

*i. Noah may have protected and preserved the genealogy from Adam in Genesis chapter 5 during the flood.*

*ii. Moses wrote the Pentateuch and charged the Levites to preserve it.*

*iii. Josiah commanded the book of the law to be put together and read to Israel, these books were made available before Babylonian captivity!*

*iv. Ezra returned from captivity as a ready scribe to collect and canonise the Old Testament scriptures. Ezra 7:10-11.*

*v. As at the time of Christ, the Scribes and Pharisees preserved the biblical scrolls and read it in Synagogues. Luke 4:16-18.*

*vi. The New Testament books were written in Greek and preserved in parchment by the church, monks and as artifacts in caves etc.*

 *vii. God at different times raised Church councils to gather, sort, canonise (i.e., vet) the Bible, to ensure the undiluted word of God is made available to us as we have it today.*

7. ***The challenge:***

i. How much do you value and treasure the Bible?

ii. How grateful are you to God for having a copy?

iii. Will you follow its message to get to heaven at last? Pray for grace.

**HYMN: ONLY REMEMBERED**

1. Fading away like the stars of the morning.

Losing their light in the glorious sun.

Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling.

Only remember by what we have done.

***Only remember, only remember,***

***Only remember by what we have done,***

***Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling.***

***Only remember by what we have done.***

1. Shall we be missed tho’ by others succeeded,

Reaping the fields we in springtime have sown?

Yes, but the sowers must pass from their labours

Ever remembered by what we have done.

1. Only the truth that in life we have spoken,

Only the seed that on earth we have sown,

These shall pass onward when we are forgotten

Fruits of the harvest and what we have done.

1. Oh, when the savior shall make up His jewels,

When the bright crowns of rejoicing are won,

Then shall His weary and faithful disciples

All be remember by what they have done.