

SESSION FOUR: The Bible as Indispensable Source of Knowledge.

"From childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (II Timothy 3:15-17)

"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success." (Joshua 1:8)

1. The human burden: To find knowledge by which to live—to find an adequate basis for life in knowledge.
2. The three sources of knowledge—of information as well as misinformation.
 - Authority, thinking ("reason") and experience.
 - Watts on Logic.
3. These are intended to be used interactively. Mutually corrective.
 - What happens when not so used? Can you say "madness"?
 - This interaction makes room for responsibility and interdependence.
 - ◆ Excessive individualism kills.
4. Since there is a personal God of love, it is natural that:
 - He would speak. "He is there and he is not silent."
 - In a permanent form (written in a human tradition, but escaping human control).
 - Generally accessible—non-ethnically formulated.
 - That his book would have the form our Bible takes.
 - That we would have no "originals."
 - That those who wish to dismiss it can find a reason.
5. How the Bible is to be savingly used.
 - With humility and openness
 - ◆ With regard to our own opinions and our traditions.
 - ◆ With regard to the opinions of others.
 - ◆ With intelligence.
6. We can destroy ourselves with the Bible.
 - John 5:39-47—a careful and thorough reading.
 - II Peter 3:16
 - "When a jackass looks into a mirror, he will not see an apostle looking out."
7. The present case of what the Gospel is.—"Sin management," or life from above in the kingdom of the heavens now.