

The Bible

Theme: The Words of God Are Written In The Bible.

Objectives

1. Explain to the candidates for baptism why the Church of Christ believes that the words of God are written only in the Bible.

2. Convince him that only the Bible should be used as the basis in serving God and that the teaching invented by men should be renounced.

Summary

The Church of Christ adheres to the belief that the words of God are written only in the Bible. The Bible should be the only basis for our services to God: this is the truth which will teach man how to be saved from punishment on Judgment Day. Thus, each member of the Iglesia ni Cristo should value the teaching of God written in the Bible by fulfilling them in his life.

Introduction

The Church of Christ or the Iglesia ni Cristo members believe that the words of God are written in the Bible. Well, that may sound obvious to some but to others it's not so obvious. Why? Because not everyone uses the Bible, not everyone believes in the Bible. There are other religions such as Islam, the religion of the Muslims. They don't use the Bible as the basis of their faith; they use what is called, Koran. Other religions also have their own sacred scripture upon which they base their faith. Such as, the Brahmans have their Vedas; the Zoroastrians have their Zend-Avesta; the Confucianists, the King; and the Buddhists, the Tripitaka.

But, we believe over and above all these is the Bible. Why? Because the Bible teaches not only morals but also, and most important, the will of God, since the words of our Almighty God

are truly written in the Bible. How can we prove that? What is the proof that the words of God are written in the Bible?

That is the topic of our lesson for this afternoon. Before we prove that, let us first understand, let us first come to know...

Presentation

Q. How did God reveal His words to man?

A. Spoken by God Heb. 1:1-2

¹God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

God spoke. **When did God speak?** According to what we have read, in “*various times and in different ways*”. **Why did the bible say that God spoke in various times?** Let us realize that the history of the world we live in is divided into 3 great biblical dispensations of time. **What are these?** The time of the patriarchs, which began from creation until the birth of Moses, then the time of the prophets, that is from the birth of Moses until the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Christian Era, that is from the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ until the Judgment Day. That is why Apostle Paul said, “*God spoke in various times.*”

What else should we understand according to Apostle Paul? He said, God spoke in “different ways”. **Why did Apostle Paul say that?** Because God indeed spoke to His people in different ways. God spoke to His people face to face, God revealed His words through miracles, through apparitions, through visions. And during the early part of the Christian era, God spoke to His people through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, if the words of God were spoken so very long ago, how were His words then preserved or recorded? How come we still have it until now?

- Q.** How were the words spoken by God (preserved) recorded and how were these words handed down to us?
- A.** He commanded His servants to commit them to writing Jer. 30:2

2"Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying: "Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you.

He commanded His servants to commit them to writing. **Who was one of the servants of our Lord God whom He commanded to write down His words?** Jeremiah. And that is why there is a book in the Bible named after its writer, Jeremiah. **What is stated in Jeremiah?** God said, *"write in a book... all the words that I have spoken to you".* **In its entirety, what is the name of that book where in the words of God are written or recorded?**

- Q.** Which book contains the words of God, in its entirety?
- A.** The Holy Scriptures II Tim. 3:15

15and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Scriptures. **Why did Apostle Paul say "holy scriptures"?** **Does this mean that the Book of Catholic Catechism, the Koran, the Vedas, the Tripitaka, the King, and the rest of those sacred books upheld by other religions as their basis of faith are the Holy Scriptures referred to by Apostle Paul?** No.

If not, then why did Apostle Paul say "holy scriptures" as it was so many? Because the Holy Scriptures or the bible is one big book that is made up of many smaller books. **What is the proof of that?** The bible is divided into two great divisions, one is called the Old Testament and the other is called the New Testament. **How many books are there in the Old Testament?** 39. **How many books are there in the New Testament?** 27. So, all together **how many books made up the Bible?** 66 books

all in all. That is why Apostle Paul said “*holy scriptures*” because the Bible is one big book made up of 66 books.

- Q.** What makes the Bible unique and above all the other books used by other religions?
- A.** The Bible is inspired by God II Tim. 3:16-17

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

According to Apostle Paul, “*all scriptures is given by inspiration of God*”. **Meaning what?** All the words written in the Bible were inspired by God. All the words in the bible were permitted by God to be written. And because the Bible is inspired by God and the words written there have the perdition to be written, thus, when the teachings written in the Bible are taught to us, we should believe that these are the words of God, His will for us to obey.

ARGUMENT: Although some might say that they believe that the words of God are true, but they say that the bible is not free from errors. Why did they say that? Simply because those instructed by God to write down His words in the Bible are just human. So, what do they mean by that? They say that it is just usual for man to commit errors. And because those commissioned by God to write down His words in the bible are only human therefore they could have committed some errors while writing the words of our Almighty God. Is that true? No. Why are we so sure about that? ...

Proof

- Q.** How were the people commissioned by God to write the Bible prevented from committing errors although they are also human in their nature of being?
- A.** The writers were guided Rev. 10:4

⁴Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

They were guided by our Lord God. **What is the proof for that?** The verse that I read to you was an instance when Apostle John was in the island of Patmos. **What was then the instruction for him by our Lord God?** Whatever he sees, whatever he hears must be written. **That is why when he heard what the seven thunders uttered, what did he say?** *"I was about to write"*. **But, was he able to write down what he heard?** No. **How come he didn't write down what he heard?** According to Apostle John, *"I heard a voice from heaven"*. **Whose voice was that?** Voice of our Almighty God. **What did the Lord God say to Apostle John?** *"Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them"*.

What did Apostle John say? *"I was about to write"*. **What did God say?** *"Do not write"*. **So, what does that prove?** It proves that the people instructed by God to write His words did not just write down what ever they wanted. They only wrote down what God wanted them to write. Thus, we are so sure that the people commissioned by God to write the Bible did not commit any errors because they were guided closely by our Lord God. **If they were guided closely by God will they still commit errors?**

ARGUMENT: Another argument that some might say, *"We truly believe that the original bible does not contain any error but, the bible that you are using now is not the original bible but just a product of the many translations from the original bible so, the bible that you are using now is not already the true words of God"*.

How can we be sure that the Bible that we are using now is still the true words of God? Well, we can prove this by asking a very simple but important question: *"Does the Bible that we use now (still) possess the quality of the words of God?"* Well, in order for us to understand that, let us first ask, **what is the quality or the characteristic of the words of God?** And let's see if the Bible that we use now possesses this quality.

- Q.** What is the characteristic of the words of God?
A. Truth John 17:17

¹⁷Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

According to our Lord Jesus Christ, “Your word” or the word of our Lord God “is truth”.

- Q.** What does it mean that the word of God is truth and why is it said to be the truth?
A. Because God’s word has fulfillment Isa. 46:11

¹¹Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.

What does it mean that the words of God are truth?

Our Almighty God himself said, *“I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it, I will also do it”*. **What does that mean?** Whatever God said will happen. **What does that mean?** It means that God’s words have fulfillment. If He said that a certain event will happen later on in a specific time. **Is it going to happen?** Like it or not, it’s going to happen.

Thus, the word of God differs from the word of man. **Why?** Because the word of man is most often proven false and goes unfulfilled, while our Lord God, His word has complete fulfillment and therefore it is the truth.

So, let’s ask the Bible, what are some of the words of God that were uttered in the beginning but destined to take place at some later time and, in fact, have been fulfilled?

- Q.** What did God say through our Lord Jesus Christ in the beginning of the Christian era that He said would happen near the end of the Christian era?
A. The two world wars Matt. 24:6-7

⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

About the wars, what did our Lord Jesus Christ say about this war? According to Him, *“you will hear of wars and rumors of wars”*. **Why did our Lord Jesus Christ say that the rumors or news of this war would be heard?** Because this war mentioned by our Lord Jesus Christ is a kind of war where modern transportation and communication equipments will be used in order for this war’s rumors or news be heard. And it is in this kind of war many nations of the world will be involved; **therefore, what kind of war is this?** A war which is worldwide in its scope. **Did it happen?** Yes, in July 27 of 1914, there was a breakout of the First World War. **What should we notice about this?** Our Lord God prophesied that, through our Lord Jesus Christ in the beginning of the Christian era, **but when was the fulfillment?** It happened near the end of the Christian Era.

Is that the only thing being mentioned by our Lord God? Because some might say, it is just a matter of coincidence. **Is that the only thing mentioned by our Lord God and has been fulfilled?** No. **After the World War I what else will happen?** According to our Lord Jesus Christ, *“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom”*. Another war, which is also worldwide in its scope. **Did it also happen?** Yes, World War I in 1914 was followed by World War II in 1939.

- Q.** What else did God say through our Lord Jesus Christ in the beginning of the Christian era but destined to take place at some later time?
- A.** followed by famine and poverty Matt. 24:7-8

⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are the beginning of sorrows.

According to our Lord Jesus Christ, *“there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places”*. **Are they happening now (as we speak) in different parts of the world?** Yes.

Bro. ____ give me a nation where famine exists? Can you name anymore, Bro. _____. How about earthquakes? Bro. _____. Are these happening now, the earthquakes? Name me a country where earthquake exists or occurs. How about pestilences? Bro. _____. Name me a country where pestilences happen?

What does this prove to us? This only proves that the words of our Lord God are what? True. Did these things happen? Are they happening now? Yes, they are.

- Q.** What else did God foretold or (more accurate word) prophesied? What did God prophesied concerning the knowledge of man, this time through the Prophet Daniel?
- A.** Knowledge shall increase Dan. 12:4

4"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

What else did God foretold or prophesied concerning the knowledge of man? "Knowledge shall increase". What is the proof that knowledge increased? Oh! there are many advances in science, technology, and in medicine. There is a rapid increase of knowledge in many different fields, isn't it? **Are these things happening?** They are, as we speak. We can give many, many examples.

- Q.** What about the kind of people that will live during these days? What did God say by means of the Apostles about the kind of people that will live during these days?
- A.** Perilous times II Tim. 3:1-5

1But know this, that in the last day's perilous times will come: 2For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

(pause reading) **What kind of days will we live in?** According to Apostle Paul, perilous or dangerous or unpredictable. ... *(continue reading...)* "perilous times will come"

Why? “for men will be lovers of themselves”. **What does that mean?** People will love only themselves to the point of hurting even their fellow men, to the point of sometimes killing their fellow men so that they could give pleasures to themselves. “...*lovers of money...*”, isn’t that’s why some people get killed, simply because other people want their money? “...*boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents...*” I don’t know if you will agree, but as time goes on, not all but many of the youth become disobedient to their parents. “...*unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving...*” Let me stop there for a second, the word unforgiving, **what’s the proof of that?** Oh, so many people they don’t know how to forgive each other. That’s why there have been many marriages now a day that have been broken because of irreconcilable issues or problems. At times, it’s because they are not able to forgive each other. “...*slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, head strong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...*” There are many people who are like that. They love the evil pleasures in life instead of loving God. *That’s why we are so thankful for the guests who are here.* Because, spending time in studying the words of God prove that we love God more than the pleasures of this world.

Brothers and sisters, do you now accept that the words written in the Bible possess the quality of the true words of our Almighty God?

Therefore, we are assured that the Bible we are using now is the true Holy Scriptures because this has the quality of the words of God: What He says will surely happen.

- Q.** What is the value of believing in the words of our Lord God written in the Bible?
- A.** May have life everlasting John 20:30-31

³⁰And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

³¹but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was very emphatic to say, *“that believing you may have life in His name”*. **Which life is being referred to by our Lord Jesus Christ?** That is the true life or the everlasting life that will be given to us by our Lord God. **But what is the condition?** We must believe in the words of God written in the Bible. But in believing in the words of God written in the Bible, it must be proven through deeds or works for us to be worthy of receiving that eternal life.

- Q.** Thus, what is the strict instruction of the Apostles so that we may not fall prey to erroneous faiths?
A. Do not go beyond what is written I Cor. 4:6

⁶Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

According to Apostle Paul, do not go beyond what is written. **What does that mean?** Aside from the Bible we should not use other books as the basis of our faith.

But, others might say, *“Why is it that sometimes there are other ministers and workers in the Church of Christ, when they preach they use other books aside from the Bible?”*. But, the question is this: *does that mean that we use other books aside from the Bible as the basis of our faith?* No. *Then, why we use other books aside from the Bible?* We only use these books as references, only to prove the authenticity of the words of God written in the Bible.

INSTRUCTION: That is why we should reject the teachings contained in the Catholic Catechism, Book of Mormon, and in other such books used by other religions as the basis of their faith because they are prohibited by our Lord God. Only the Bible can teach man of his salvation come Judgment Day.

- Q.** What is God’s warning to those who add to or subtract from the words of God written in the Bible?

- A. They will be punished and
will not be saved Rev. 22:18-19

¹⁸For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

What is our Lord God's warning to those who add to from the words of God written in the Bible? It says, *"If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book".*

How about to those who will subtract or take away from the words of God in the Bible, what will our Lord God do to them? It says, *"and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city".*

Hence, either adding or taking from the Bible will cause a person to be punished and not to be saved.

Conclusion

Therefore, as we have learned this afternoon, we should faithfully obey all the teachings of the Bible taught inside the Church of Christ because these are the words of our Almighty God. This is the basis of our faith. Every time we see each other, every time we meet like this, this is what we will study, the words of God, which are written in the Bible.