

IS GOD'S REVELATION COMPLETE OR CONTINUING?

Text: Galatians 1:11-12

INTRO: This is an extremely important question. Many preachers and others insist that God speaks to them outside the Scriptures and guides them in some "better felt than told" way.

If God's revelation to us in the Scriptures is complete, we need to know it lest we be misled by modern claims. If God's revelation is continuing, we need to know that so we can have full advantage of all God's revelation.

I. REAL REVELATIONS WERE RECEIVED IN BIBLICAL TIMES.

Hebrews 1:1-2.

- A. This is the only way men can know what God thinks.
Isaiah 55:8-9.

READ I COR. 2:11-13, 10

- B. God preserved His will for us thru the Scriptures.
2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21.

- C. Most religious people in our society are in general agreement that God's will re certain matters is made known in Scripture--but many think that revelation is incomplete & must be supplemented by modern revelations.

II. THE IDEA OF CONTINUING REVELATION IS NOT NEW.

- A. The Montanists in the 2nd century claimed to receive new revelations & insight into God's plans thru ecstatic utterances. As a result, they made numerous predictions re the 2nd coming, which in time proved their "revelations" were not from God.

- B. The 7th Day Adventist and Mormon churches were both established as a result of modern day claims to inspiration.

- C. The Pope claims to be in a position to receive new revelations from God. Mormons received a "new" revela-

tion a few years ago re blacks in the priesthood. The "Pentecostal" movement has its basis in "revelations" received in 1914. It is scarcely possible to listen to Oral Roberts, J.L. Swaggart, or even many Baptist preachers very long without hearing some sort of claim to a direct communication from God. The Houston Post, 11/12/83 reported that during 1982, 231 Baptists a day became Mormons. Baptist preachers had conditioned them to Mormon claims by their "direct communication" claims.

III. BIBLE REVELATIONS LEAVE NO ROOM FOR SUCH MODERN CLAIMS.

A. All truth. John 14:26; 16:13.

1. N.T. apostles & prophets communicated to others these revelations of truth.

READ I JOHN 1:1-4

2 Tim 3:16-17; Eph 3:3-4; Acts 20:20, 27

2. This does not mean that I know everything, but it does mean God revealed everything He intends for me to know about spiritual matters. John 20:30; 21:25; Deut. 29:29

B. We can be assured that nothing has been lost from God's revelation, thus nothing needs to be "restored." Mormonism's basis for existence involves supposed restoration of ancient truths that have been deleted from Scripture. The God who revealed Biblical truth has also preserved & protected it & will continue to do so. MT 24:35; 1 Pet 1:23-25; Rev 14:6.

Jer. 36; dead sea scrolls, etc.

C. Since God's revelation is complete in Scripture & protected by His providence, it is not being re-revealed in each generation. Jude 3. Compare Heb 9:28.

D. New revelations are not needed because God's will

remains unchanged. Gal. 1:6-9; John 12:48.

CONCLUSION: The Scriptures are entirely sufficient to initially produce faith & then to guide the believer in the way God would have him go, JN 20:30-31; 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

Someone may ask, what about dreams & feelings? We do not deny that men dream dreams or that they experience feelings. We plainly deny that such dreams & feelings supersede or set aside anything revealed in Scripture. "You can't know how I feel!" No, but I can know what God said. And he put it in writing.

La Porte, TX, January 1, 1984
College Park, Deer Park, TX, February, 1984
Imhoff Ave., Port Arthur, TX, January 11, 1984
Dickinson, TX, Marech 15, 1984 (meeting)
Pruett & Lobit, Baytown, TX, April 15, 1984
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, April 22, 1984
Exton, PA, May 6, 1984 (meeting)
Liberty Hill, TX, October 9, 1986 (meeting)
Lancaster County, PA, November 16, 1986
Jonestown, TX, September 14, 1987 (meeting)
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 5, 1997
Northside, Georgetown, TX, November 18, 2000 (meeting)
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 24, 2005