

The Standard of Agreement

- Intro 5:9
- 1) I've always wanted to be a "peacemaker" ... As Jesus said we should be in **Mt 5:9**
 - a) There is a wonderful "Peace" in Christ
 - b) I enjoy it and try to share it with others.
 - 2) I love the precious church Jesus died to establish as Paul described in **Acts 20:28**
 - a) I take seriously the instructions of Paul in **I Cor 1:10**
 - b) "Let there be no divisions among you"
 - 3) But ... that's not all that Paul said
"speak the same thing -
perfectly joined together -
same mind and same spirit."
 - 4) But in today's world, believers in Christ disagree about the standard of agreement for the Lord's church.
(What is the standard to which we must all conform?)
(Differing **standards** have always promoted division)
 - a) Some are led by their own personal, subjective feelings (attributed to HS)
 - b) Some look to modern day "Holy Men" for inspired guidance
 - c) Others look to the Words of Christ and His apostles as recorded in Holy Scripture
- I. I have always looked to **the Bible** as the inspired Word of God.
- A. II Timothy 3:16-17 *Scripture is all we need*
- Scripture is inspired
All scripture is inspired
Scripture equips the man of God for every good work
Every good work (like what?)
Teachings?
Doctrine? (KJV)
1. "Scripture" is defined by Paul as "Sacred Writings" - II Tim 3:15
 2. Scripture is **sacred** because it's inspired by the Holy Spirit - II Pet 1:20-21

3. Inspired spokesmen were confirmed to be so - Heb 2:3-4 & II Cor 12:12
4. Inspired authors recognized other inspired authors - II Peter 3:15-16
5. **Now think:** the sacred writings Timothy learned were “OT” - II Tim 3:15
6. Peter included Paul’s writings as part of all sacred writings - II Pet 3:15
7. So ... even Paul’s statement in II Tim 3:16 is (itself) inspired
8. In I Cor 4:6 ... Paul is commenting on his own current writings

It is “**These Scriptures**” ... Inspired, Spirit Directed, Sacred Writing which I claim as my religious authority.

B. Should we expect continuing revelation from God?

1. Paul said that miraculous confirmation would end - I Cor 13:8
 Those signs, miracles, & gifts of the HS which confirmed revelation
 What, then, would that do to the possibility of new revelation?
 What signs do we see of these powers winding down?
2. In Paul’s last days ...
 - a. No novice Christian could be appointed “overseer” - I Tim 3:1-6
 - b. Unlike the early days of the church’s infancy - Acts 14:23
 - c. Elders came to be appointed by qualifications and experience.
 WHY?? The conveyance of spiritual gifts had begun to wane
3. In Peter’s last days ...
 - a. No mention is made of apostolic succession
 - b. Instead, he is recording points to be remembered - II Pet 1:13-15
4. In John’s last days ...
 - a. No mention is made of apostolic succession (he’s the last)
 - b. Instead, he directs his readers back to previous teaching - I Jn 2:24
5. New Covenant revelation was punctilious by nature - Jude 3

- a. Rev 22:18-19 Don't add to or take from this prophecy
- b. II Thes 2:15
- c. I Cor 4:6

II. Why do you think New Testament writers wrote?

Was this just casual correspondence?
 Did they expect a continuation of revelation?
 Why not let them tell us why they wrote?

- A. **John** Jn 20:31 Indeed, our faith in Christ is based on Scripture

Without the written word (eye witnesses) none of us could have faith
 None of us could have life.

Scripture Provides: A record of Jesus' deeds sufficient to build a saving faith.

- B. **Luke** Lk 1:3-4 "I wrote - so that - you may know" (exact truth, consecutive order)

Scripture Provides: An orderly, accurate record ...

Acts 1:1 Commenting on his own gospel ... record of Jesus' earthly ministry

Scripture Provides: A record of all things Jesus began to do and **teach** (earthly ministry).

- C. **Paul** I Cor 14:37

Scripture Provides: A record of the Lord's Commandments ... as taught by the apostles.

Eph 3:4

Scripture Provides: A way to understand Paul's insight into the mystery of Christ.

- D. **Scripture Proclaims What Scripture Provides**

Acts 17:11 Criterion for recognizing true doctrine

II Tim 3:16-17 All that is necessary for the man of God to be equipped for every good work.

- E. **No Wonder Peter Said:**

II Peter 1:3

F. **No Wonder Jude Said:**

Jude 3

G. **No Wonder John Said:**

I Jn 2:24

Scripture Provides: All the information necessary to have eternal fellowship with God.

Concl. **What, Then, Should Be Our Standard of Agreement?** I Cor 1:10

Personal Feelings?

Church Officials?

Recorded Scripture

(Review what Scripture Provides)

What else do we need beyond what Scripture provides to be well pleasing to God and to prepare for eternity?

SCRIPTURE is the Authority for God's People

SCRIPTURE is the Standard of Agreement.