

GIVE ME THE BIBLE!

By Keith Greer

Personalized license plates and bumper stickers have always caught my eye as I sit in traffic. People seem to have the desire to make a statement about themselves, or their philosophy of life, on the back of their automobiles. While some are humorous, some are puzzling, and some are not worth repeating, one bumper sticker caught my eye the other day. "GOD SAID IT. I BELIEVE IT. THAT SETTLES IT."

While perhaps the bumper sticker should have been worded differently :GOD SAID IT. THAT SETTLES IT. EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT! We should consider the fundamental truth that is involved.

Whenever the subject of religion, or religious topics, are discussed, where do men need to turn? "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Now is this true whenever religious topics come up in discussion that all men always turn to God's book? Think again!

If I wanted to know how to work on a Ford product, would I look in a Chevrolet manual? Similarly, when we need answers to spiritual questions, shouldn't we turn to God's word? Yet, far too often, that is not the case. Sadly, the Bible is the LAST place men look for spiritual answers.

Many believe the Bible is "outdated" and "not up to the times". Others say that we can each make our own 'personal interpretation". Still others say that the Bible is "just written by men" or is "just a book of wise sayings." Many folks look at the Bible as just one book among million of other books that have been written. Wrong – it is the BOOK OF ALL BOOKS among every book that has been written or ever will be written!

Probably the greatest reason that many reject the Bible is because they don't like what it says. If the teachings go against their desires, then they want to reject the scriptures as just someone's "opinion." Friend, this is where the rubber meets the road and gets to the real issue – the majority do not agree with the teachings of God's book.

The scriptures, however, are not just our "opinion". "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." (2 Peter 1:20-21)

"And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (John 12:47-48) Yes, we can accept the "wisdom of man", and reject God's word, but, oh, at what cost!

"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was

sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? . It is a fearful thing to fan into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 12:29-31)

Human wisdom has never been on par with the true divine wisdom taught and found in God's final revelation to mankind. Yes, God did make men free moral agents to make up their own minds about what to do with the teachings of scriptures. Yet, for the one seeking God's truth – If God has said it, may that always be the final Word in our lives. ***