

## The Patio Pulpit For December 30, 2020

### The Letter To the Hebrews Part 2

“The Canon Is Closed. Period.”

You may have forgotten where we were the last time on Patio Pulpit, but I had just started a study in the letter to the Hebrews. I said then that this will not be a verse-by-verse study of Hebrews but I'm going to address several matters throughout the letter that will actually accomplish a thorough study of this letter since I will be putting it in its context. So let's get started with chapter 1 and verses 1-4. Hebrews 1:1-4. *Hebrews 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. <sup>3</sup> And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. (Heb. 1:1-4 NAU)*

“The written word of God has been on lockdown since the apostle John penned the last word in his record of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The canon of Scripture is closed.”

“The "canon" of Scripture is defined as the **books of the Bible officially accepted as Holy Scripture**. Written by about forty authors over the course of 1500 years, it was essential that a list be drawn up of the books which reflected the truth of God's message and were inspired by the Holy Spirit.” “The complete Canon of the New Testament, as commonly received at present, was ratified at the third Council of Carthage (A.D. 397).”

God is no longer inspiring men to write Scripture. He is no longer giving revelation that becomes Scripture. He does however give us revelation of His revelation and the finished work of His Son. And that's what the apostle Paul asked God to give the saints in Ephesus. Eph. 1:15-17, this is important so note what Paul prayed, <sup>15</sup> *For this reason I*

*too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,*

*<sup>16</sup> do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; <sup>17</sup> **that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.*** Paul was not praying that God would show the

Ephesians new truths or new revelations, but that He would give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation of what He has already accomplished in His Son on their behalf.

*<sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

*<sup>19</sup> and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. (Eph. 1:15-19 NAU)*

Paul prayed that God might open their hearts and minds and spirits to see what they possessed already and how they could know it. And that was by God giving them a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, Jesus. “May God give you understanding of what is written and may you learn not to go beyond what is written.” (1 Cor. 4:6). *<sup>6</sup> Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so **that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written**, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. (1 Cor. 4:6 NAU)*

You may not be aware of this, but there is a movement afoot being propagated by men and women who blatantly reject the Bible as the final and authoritative word of God, instead choosing to preach and teach what they claim are direct revelations from God that, without exception, fly in the face of the Holy Spirit, God-breathed Scripture the church has turned to for over 1900 years.

This movement doesn't have a formal name yet but it's being called the “hearing the voice of God” movement, or for short, the HVG. And what this movement and the four major movements that preceded it

have produced is what Paul the apostle warned us of in his second letter to Timothy.

<sup>NAU</sup> **2 Timothy 4:** <sup>2</sup> *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

<sup>3</sup> *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,*

<sup>4</sup> *and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.* (2 Tim. 3:16-4:4 NAU)

And if you are wondering what the other four movements are, here they are. #1, The Pentecostal Movement that began around 1905, #2, the Charismatic Movement that began in the late 1950's, #3, the Word of Faith Movement that began in the 1970's, and #4, the New Apostolic Reformation Movement that began around 1991. The logical next step is the current movement known as the HVG Movement. And these are the people about whom the apostle warned Pastor Timothy who are tickling the ears of their hearers. This is that time Paul said would come.

These five heretical movements have several deceptive traits in common, the chief one being the blending of truth and heresy. The apostle Peter summed it up this way, **2 Peter 2:1** *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you ("you" who? The church), who will secretly introduce destructive heresies (they will teach the truth alongside their lies, **παρεισάγω** [παρά, εἰσάγω] 'introduce alongside'), even (secretly) denying the Master who bought them (the average church-goer will be unaware that the men and women they are listening to deny Jesus), bringing swift destruction upon themselves.* <sup>2</sup> *Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned;* <sup>3</sup> *and in their greed they will exploit you ("you" who? The church) with false words ("false words" means 'made-up stories');* (2 Pet. 2:1-3 NAU).

I have said this before, I was in the Charismatic Movement for 9 years and was constantly questioning how the Charismatics and Pentecostals treated Scripture, for example, how they consistently took a

verse or book out of context. And what really drove me out of the movement was three-fold, their practice of “being slain in the Spirit” which is not Biblical, and their teaching that if one doesn’t speak in tongues then that one can’t know for sure if he or she is saved or at best, they can’t be sure they have been baptized in the Spirit, and the topic I’m addressing this evening, their saying “the Lord told me” this or that and “the Lord showed me” and “the Lord spoke to me this morning,” etc., etc., all of which is happening independent from the written word and is purely the product of their imaginations. That is a summation of this latest movement, the hearing the voice of God heresy.

Do they mean “I had the feeling that the Lord was telling me...?” Or “I had the distinct impression that God was showing me...?” Or, and this is the most disturbing of all, do they mean they heard the audible voice of God? Whatever they meant, it was what we call extra-biblical revelation. They claim to have heard a new word from the Spirit, one not taught in the written word.

Let me give you two contemporary examples of extra-biblical revelations that have become best sellers around the globe. One is the very popular book by Sarah Young, “Jesus Calling.” Mrs. Young claims that her book is the product of her having heard directly from Jesus and is therefore on the same par with Scripture. She simply had impressions that she took to be the voice of Jesus and wrote them down. The second example is what the author claims to be the product of Jesus literally coming into the author’s room, breathing on him, and telling him that He, Jesus, is commissioning him to write a new and correction version of the Bible called “The Passion Translation.”

The author’s name is Brian Simmons. Mr. Simmons claims to be an authority in Biblical languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek having worked with a legitimate Bible translating missionary organization, but as that organization reports, Mr. Simmons has little to no knowledge of those languages. The Passion Translation is the product of one man’s imaginings and should be avoided like a flea infested rat. Both examples are typical of the HVG movement.

**Hebrews 1:1** *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. There is a clear finality in the author's words, "in these last days has spoken to us in His Son." And the words of Paul to Timothy about all Scripture being God-breathed, also have the idea of a final work of the Spirit concerning revelation from God.*

And God doesn't take adding to His written word lightly. In fact, He takes it very seriously, even to the point of condemning those who add to it.

<sup>2</sup> *"You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. (Deut. 4:2 NAU)*

<sup>5</sup> *Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.*

<sup>6</sup> *Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar. (Prov. 30:5-6 NAU)*

<sup>32</sup> *"Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it. (Deut. 12:32 NAU)*

<sup>18</sup> *I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;*

<sup>19</sup> *and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book. (Rev. 22:18-19 NAU)*

If you have heard the voice of God, it was while you were reading the voice of God as it is written in your Bible. If you want to hear the

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audible voice of God read the Bible out loud. If you want to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, you can, if you are one of His sheep.

<sup>2</sup> *"But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.*

<sup>3</sup> *"To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

<sup>4</sup> *"When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

<sup>5</sup> *"A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers."*

*(Jn. 10:2-5 NAU)*

<sup>16</sup> *"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. (Jn. 10:16 NAU)*

Beloved, the voice of Jesus refers to His teachings. The voice of Jesus refers to what is written in our New Testament. **Scripture is the voice of God, the voice of Jesus.** And every man of God who stands and preaches the word of God is a shepherd over the sheep of Jesus. That's what the Bible means when it tells all God-called pastors to preach the word. We are preaching the voice of the Good Shepherd.