

# THE BIBLE

What Does it Mean to Us?

# Reflection Question(s) #1

- ▣ Before we get started on the lecture...
- ▣ What does the bible mean to you as a conscious individual ?
  - ▣ - Do you refer to it when you struggle?
  - ▣ - Is it the foundation of your moral compass?
  - ▣ Or....
  - ▣ - Do you not refer to it at all?

# The Holy Bible

- ▣ There are two truths in which Christianity draws its sources from...
  
- ▣ 1. Holy Tradition
- ▣ 2. Holy Scripture
  
- These two sources contain God's Divine Revelation to man in both written and oral format.

# The Holy Bible

- The word Bible is Greek for Book, the messages it contains from God are special and allow us to be guided by his word.
- These words may not have been written by God himself but the written word of God inspired men to write them through the Holy Spirit and God.

# Meaning?

- ▣ The Bible is a record in which we can somewhat experience the creation of the world
- ▣ But also it shows us how sin came into the world and how the many Prophets of God tried to lead the people back to him.
  - Jesus arrival in a way is the result of previous failures and God bridging us to him through his son.
  - Which means that the bible is a record of man's battle against evil and Gods forgiveness

# Continued...

- With our ability to practice free will it becomes important when we are deciding whether or not to accept Gods salvation.
- This choice is pointless unless we understand the gravity of the choice itself.

The bible tells us this by...

1. What has happened to other people before us
2. What we ought to do
3. What will happen if we make good/bad choices

# Old/New Testaments

- ▣ Firstly – the bible was written over a long period of time therefore we divide it into three groups (Historical, Instructive, Prophetic)

...the two sections being the “Old and New Testament”

Testament means covenant or agreement , so what exactly does this mean still?

# Examples of Testament

- God spoke to certain people at various times and in different way...

- ▣ Oral Covenant – God spoke to Adam and Eve directly
- ▣ Written Covenant – God spoke to Moses and gave him written code of laws

Or...

God also spoke to his people through prophets who were inspired by God to interpret his word eventually predicting the old would be replaced by the new...the covenant of Jesus Christ

# Example of Testament

- ▣ Ex, God speaking through his prophets...

2 Peter 1:21

- “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”

2 Timothy 3:16

- “All scripture given by inspiration of God, and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”

# The Old Testament

- ▣ Contains the history of the creation of the world and man by God and the history of the Jewish people
- ▣ Gods plan in preparing the way for people of Israel
- ▣ Written at different times so the languages of the Old Testament so the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages are prevalent

# The New Testament

- ▣ Made up of 27 books which contain the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Apostles
- ▣ Referred to as the Holy Gospel because it contains the salvation of a sinful mankind through the son of God
- ▣ Jesus came down from Heaven, in which become man where he lived and taught on earth. Died on the cross and raised from the dead.

# Reflection Question(s) #2

- ▣ Why do we believe that the Bible is Divine?
- ▣ Do you think it is? Yes/No/Maybe...based from personal experiences or life in general.

# The Bible' Divinity

- ▣ It contains sublime and clear truths regarding God, man, present life and life which is to come
- ▣ These truths despite many persecutions and great opposition were spread to all nations of the world and this was accomplished through preaching and not forceful/material means
- ▣ Again, these truths helped change many inhuman customs and converted many barbaric people to civilised people
- ▣ The souls of humans will always have needs of the truth of the bible because without it, our souls will fall into corruption and depression

# Reflection Question(s) #3

- ▣ If our souls need the truths of bible in order to keep them from corruption and depression than why is it that those who preach the bible or are religious in the teaching of the bible still fall to corruption?

# The Bible' Divinity Continued...

- ▣ Christ used many scriptures denoting them to be the Word of God. For these reasons we accept that fact that the Holy Bible is a divinely inspired book and that the truths it contains are divine and eternal so that regardless of how much mankind progresses it will be unable to add to anything better.
- ▣ Instead it will eternally study and strive for a more profound understanding of scripture so that it can draw strength and divine life from therein, gradually realizing the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth.

# Reflection Question(s) #4

- ▣ After considering this brief lecture, how might you go about approaching the Bible?  
(Ex, Reading in groups, asking priests, deacons or some figure in the church who can help shed light on the many concepts/teachings the Bible has to offer).