

Our Convictions

Part 1: We affirm the centrality of the Word of God.

Jerome Nelson is the Superintendent of the Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church



In the Central Conference, you can still hear someone ask the question, "Where is it written?" And that is because, we still hold the view that: "the Holy Scripture, both the Old and the New Testament is the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct."

We affirm that the Bible is the Word of God and the Word of Truth. It is the message of God to humankind. It reveals that the evil that is in the world today is the result of unbelief; that it is the result of the self-will of lost individuals who are blinded by Satan and who are living in sin; that it is the result of humankind's disobedience to the commands of a Holy and all-wise God.

We affirm that the Bible is the only book that can give a satisfactory explanation and a clear understanding of the cause and the meaning of the turmoil and the fear of these troubling times; and it is the only book that can give the remedy for this turmoil and fear. It is the only book that reveals Jesus Christ, the Savior of humankind.

Contrary to the belief of some, the Bible is not a magic charm, fetish or a thing that will work wonders by its very presence without any engagement with it. The Bible does not claim to be any such thing. But it does claim that if one will study and practice it that it will work wonders in the life now and in the life after. It will not benefit anyone by its mere presence any more than a spring of cool water to a thirsty person in the desert will benefit them if they refuse to drink from it. And neither is the Bible a book that conforms to the tastes, customs, or habits of any one group of people, or for any one age or period of time. It is a book to which all people in all ages can conform, and yet retain their own peculiar customs and habits that are not sinful and contrary to the will of God.

The Bible is God's inspired revelation of the origin and destiny of all things. It is the power of God unto eternal salvation and it is the source of present help for body, soul, and spirit (Romans 1:16, John 15:7). It is God's will and testament to humankind in all ages, revealing the plan of God for man here and now and in the next life to come. It is the record of God's dealings with humankind; past, present, and future. It contains God's message of eternal salvation to all who believe in Christ and of eternal damnation to those who rebel against the Word of God.

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of mankind, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts binding, its histories true, and its decisions immutable. It should be read to become wise, believed to be saved, and

practices to be holy. It contains light to direct you, spiritual food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.

Dwight L. Moody, when he was asked from whence he had obtained such lasting power and strength in his life, said, "I have power insomuch as my soul is saturated with the word of God."

Bible Study

2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:16

Because God will examine what kind of workers we have been for him, we should build our lives on his Word and build his Word into our lives. It alone tells us how to live for him and serve him. The Bible is not a collection of stories, fables, myths, or merely human ideas about God. It is not a human book. Through the Holy Spirit, God revealed his person and plan to certain believers, who wrote down his message for his people.

Questions:

1. What happens to believers who ignore the Bible?
2. What is required in order to be able to understand and explain the Bible to others?
3. Who were the Scriptures inspired by?
4. What are the Scriptures good for?