KNOW THE TRUTH

Lesson 1 - Authority & Revelation

Outline is drawn from pages 13-15 & 21-33 of Know the Truth - A Handbook of Christian Belief by Bruce Milne.

ΚE	Y C	ONCEPTS FROM THE INTRODUCTION
l.	Intr	roduction
	Α.	Why is the study of doctrine so vital?
		1. "Every Christian is a <u>theologian</u> !
		a) "Theology literally means 'the <u>science</u> of God', or 'thought and
		speech which issue from a knowledge of God' (1 Cor. 1:5)." (p. 13)
		2. "Getting doctrine right is the key to getting everything else right."
		a) "Of course correct doctrine in itself is not enough; it is tragically possible to fail to
		work God's truth out in practical obedience." (p. 14)
		3. "Study of doctrine is an expression of loving the Lord with our minds.
		(Matt.22:37)." (p. 14)
		4. "Doctrine is vital because it is impossible finally to separate Christ from the
		truth which Scripture reveals concerning him." (p. 14)
	В.	"Doctrine matters
		approved, a workmen who correctly handles the word of truth. "" (p. 14)
KE		ONCEPTS CONCERNING AUTHORITY
١.		thority
	Α.	"The diverse viewpoints adopted about religious matters can be seen to be largely
		<u>determined</u> by a prior decision, taken consciously or unconsciously, about the
		seat of religious <u>authority</u> ." (p. 21)
II.		Meaning of Authority
		"Authority is the right or power to require obedience " (p. 22)
	В.	"From the perspective of Christian faith, God has the supreme right and
		power to require obedience because he is the Creator and Lord of everyone." (p. 22)
III.		e Source of Authority
	Α.	List the five inadequate sources of authority to which people often appeal (pg. 22-23):
		The creeds
		2. The confessions
		3. Christian experience
		4. Christian reason
	_	5. The inner voice
	В.	"The ultimate source of authority, however, is the Triune God himself, as he
	_	is made known to us through the words of the Bible." (p. 24)
	C.	The previous statement is based upon three essential truths (p. 24): 1. God has taken the initiative
		2. God has come to us himself, in person, in <u>Jesus Christ</u> , the God-man.

3. Our knowledge of God comes through the ______.

KE	CONCEPTS CONCERNING REVELATION (pg. 25-33	;)
١.	The Significance of Revelation	

١.	The significance of Revelation	
	A. "Revelation means <u>unveiling</u> something hidden, so that it may be seen ar	nd
	known for what it is." (p. 25)	
	B. "Biblical religion is a religion of <u>revelation</u> , a faith based on the claim that C	God
	has come to us and has disclosed himself." (p. 25)	
	C. "If we are to know God, revelation is indispensable for two reasons":	
	1. "We are <u>creatures</u> ." (p. 25)	
	a) "The distinction is not absolute " (p. 26)	
	b) "The distinction in being involves a distinction in knowing ."(p. 26)	
	2. We are <u>sinners</u> . (p. 26)	
	a) "Our need of revelation is immeasurably increased by our	
	sinfulness." (p. 26)	
	,	
	b) "The fall has affected every aspect of our being, not least our perception of	
	moral and spiritual reality." (p. 26)	
II.	The Likelihood of Revelation	
	A. "If God is our Creator, revelation in some form is overwhelmingly probable	
	since we may confidently assume that God made us for a purpose" (p. 26)	
	B. "If we suppose further, as many do, even vaguely, that the Creator God is loving, the	
	likelihood of revelation becomes overwhelming" (p. 27)	
III.	General Revelation	
	A. " revelation is the revelation of God made to all people	
	everywhere." (p. 27)	
	B. Forms of general revelation:	
	1. Creation (p. 27)	
	2. Moral Experience (p. 28)	
	3. Universal religious sense (p.29)	
	C. "God's revelation is, however, is not detached and objective like a museum exhibit.	
	Rather it is a dynamic and ongoing reality; God repeatedly reve	als
	himself, humankind repeatedly resists , obscuring and misusing the	
	revaluation (Rom. 1:21-28)." (p. 29)	
	D. The effects of general revelation:	
	1. "It <u>reflects</u> the goodness of God." (p. 29)	
	2. It "renders us <u>guilty</u> before God." (p. 30)	
	a) "Everyone is <u>confronted</u> by God and therefore carries responsibility f	or
	the lack of a true relationship with him." (p. 30)	
	b) "People will be judged at the end by the light and <u>opportunity</u> which	1
	they had; clearly that is not the same for everyone (Matt. 13:11, Luke 10:13)."	(p.
	30)	
	c) "The Bible, however, teaches that clearly that is brought	in
	some measure to all, and all therefore incur guilt for their ignorance of God."	
	E. "To summarize, the Bible teaches clearly that God has not left himself without a	
	testimony " (p. 30)	

IV. Special Revelation
A. " revelation denotes the ways God makes himself known with a
clarity and fulness which far surpasses general revelation."
B. Two forms of special revelation:
 "The supreme form of God's self-disclosure was his becoming incarnate in the perso of Jesus Christ (John 1:1, 14)." (p. 31)
of (John 1:1, 14)." (p. 31) 2. The Holy scriptures claim to record God's words to his
creatures (John 10:35; Rom. 3:2; 2 Tim. 3:16)." (p. 31)
C. "These forms cannot be separated ." (p. 31)
D. "Even special revelation in Christ and scripture is not sufficient to bring us ful
and satisfactory knowledge of God, because of the moral limitations of humankind." (p
E. "Fallen creatures have an inherent <u>tendency</u> to resist every form of God's
revelation and turn away from knowing him." (p. 32)
F. "To summarize, God's revelation has two major parts, a general revelation to all, chiefly
through nature and conscience, and special revelation in Jesus Christ and scripture.
Special revelation, however, needs a further subdivision; by some it is rejected, while
others receive it through the ministry of the Holy Spirit enabling them to believing Christ.
this final case we may confidently speak of a true revelation, leading to a true
knowledge of God." (p. 32.)
See discussion questions on page 24 and 33 of Know the Truth
Notes: