The Whole Counsel of God

Luke records the words of Paul as he spoke to the elders at Ephesus: "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). In context, Paul is speaking of the importance of strictly sticking too and maintaining the truth as presented through Jesus. Paul's words are just as powerful today as when originally spoken some 2,000 years ago. The Gospel, the New Testament, provides man direction today for what one needs to obtain salvation. That being said, some question at times why there is a need to study and consider what is written in the Old Testament.

The argument is presented by some Christians that the Old Testament is outdated, thus obsolete. Whereas the Old Testament may be outdated, we should never consider it obsolete, at least when it comes to our learning more about God and His ways. When writing to the Christians in Corinth, Paul speaks of the Old Testament as a valuable learning tool. "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1 Corinthians 10:11). Yet, some consider the Old Testament not worth our time. If the Old Testament was valuable for the Christians then to learn from, why would it not be valuable for Christians today? Even though we are not bound by the Law of the Old Testament, the examples it contains are just as valuable for our admonition as they were for the Christians in Corinth.

Some in the world look at the New Testament the way some Christians look at the Old Testament. Some see the New Testament to be just as outdated and obsolete as the Old Testament. After all, the New Testament was written some 2,000 years ago. How could such an old manuscript have any validity in our day and time?

Jesus states, "Therefore whoever hears these words of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built house upon the rock" (Matthew 7:24). Considering Jesus' statement with that of the Hebrew writer, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), it is impossible for one to conclude the New Testament obsolete and out dated.

Accepting and believing anything recorded in the Bible, and then applying it accordingly, takes a humble and accepting heart. One must be willing to accept that God is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). To understand what one needs to do to be rewarded by God there is only one source provided by God for that understanding to take place. The Bible declares its validity and continual relevance. The Psalmist writes, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). Paul recorded later, "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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Let us be accepting of His will through His word that we may be rewarded by Him with this life is done.