

himself and it is only reasonable that he would do so. Consequently, since he is God, we believe that what he will tell us of himself is right and this is why we call it revelation. It "reveals" to us truth which otherwise we could neither know nor "figure out". We believe this revelation is by the "Word" of God...both the written word, the Bible, and the living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. However we only know of the latter from the former and so when we talk about the basic Christian belief, it is fundamentally a belief in God's Word...that he has given to us the Bible and we believe it to be the Word of God.

Note this important matter, however. We worship God...not the book. Sometimes we evangelical Christians are accused of worshipping the Bible. This is not so...but we respect it as the will of God for us and since we worship Him, we are certainly going to pay genuine respect to the statements of his will. It is unthinkable therefore that one can speak of "worshipping God" in "spirit and in truth" and thinking disrespectfully of his Word. If I honor him, I will 'honor his gifts to me.

2. Discussion

a. We believe the Bible is from God.

Our discussion is based largely on what we read in Hebrews 1:1-2. God, in the former days, "spoke" to the fathers by the prophets...he has now spoken to us by a Son. This speaking of the prophets is identified with the messages God gave them for the people in the earlier economy. This speaking by the son with the words of the Lord Jesus as noted in John 17. Not everyone who spoke did so by the will of God...but the prophets did. The messages from them were to be treated with the respect showed God himself. This is abundantly clear in such passages as 2 Peter 1:21.

In believing this about the Bible, we are telling what we think it is: the revealed