Relevance Of God’s Revelation

Intro: Mat. 24:35 “...Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” The one prominent characteristic of this day is change. Our means of transportation has changed drastically over the past years. Medicine has made great strides. This truly is the technological revolution. Bacon said, “They that reverence too much old times are but a scorn to the new.” Shall we surrender modern cars and technology for the horse and buggy, the old? Why then hold to an old Bible? In the area of change, man is improving on what he has made or discovered. But, the Bible is from God (2 Tim. 3:16 “16All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”) and, thus, it is perfect (Jam. 1:25 “25But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”). Man can improve on what he has made but he dare not tamper with what God has given.

I. The Bible is Relevant Because Sin is Prevalent.

A. Three terms used to describe the condition of man.
1. Sin.
   a. This means to miss the mark.
   b. Rom. 3:23 “23For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
2. Transgression
   a. This is to step across God’s fixed boundary.
   b. 1 John 3:4 “4Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”
3. Iniquity.
   a. This means that which is crooked or deviates from the standard.
   b. Isa. 59:1-2 “1Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

B. Sin is real.
1. As long as men steal, rob, kill, rape, lie, curse, get drunk, covet, etc. they sin.
2. To deny the reality of sin is to doubt the reports given daily via the newspapers, radio, and T.V.

C. The Bible deals with the problem of sin.
1. The Bible is not a book of science, economics, history, etc.
2. The Bible deals with the reality of sin.
   a. Gen. 3:
   b. Rom. 3:10, 23 “10As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:...23For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
3. It reveals the desire of God to save man from sin.
   a. 1 Tim. 2:4 “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”
   b. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
   c. Rom. 5:6-9 “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 9But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 10Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”
4. It reveals what man must do in order to be saved.
   a. Jam. 1:21 “21Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
b. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

c. What man must do?
   (1) Believe
      (a) John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."
      (b) Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
   (2) Repent
      (a) Luke 13:3 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
      (b) Luke 24:46-47 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
   (3) Be baptized
      (a) Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
      (b) Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

II. GOD’S MESSAGE GIVES PURPOSE TO LIFE.
   A. Life is more than skin deep.
      1. Mat. 4:4 "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."
      2. Man cannot, like the animal, eat drink and lie down to contentment.
      3. He must have a purpose for being.
   B. The “whole of man” was stated by one who had been in the “laboratory of life” trying to ascertain those things that would make man happy; Ecc. 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."
   C. In Jesus we have life.
      1. John 1:4 “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”
      2. John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”
   D. The abundant life.
      1. Peace
         a. John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
         b. Phi. 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
         c. With God
            (1) Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
            (2) Eph. 2:17 “And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.”
d. With man; Eph. 2:14 “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;”

2. Joy
   a. Phi. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
   b. 1 Thc. 5:16 “Rejoice evermore.”
   c. Mat. 5:3-12 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

3. Love
   a. 1 John 2:5 “But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”
   b. 1 John 4:7-8, 12 “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.... 12No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.”

4. Purpose
   a. To worship and serve God.
      (1) Mat. 4:10 “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
      (2) John 4:23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
      (3) Ecc. 12:13-14 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

5. Hope
   a. Tit. 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”
   b. Tit. 3:7 “That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”
   c. Heb. 6:17-18 “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: 18That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:”
   d. Those without Christ; Eph. 2:12 “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:”

III. **God’s Book is Modern Because of the Mass of Men.**

A. This is the age of the population explosion.
   1. Over 6 ½ billion people now live on the earth.
   2. By 2010 it is estimated that there will be 7 billion.
   3. The individual is lost in the mass of humanity; he becomes a number.
B. The Bible places the emphasis on the worth of the individual.

1. The worth of the individual soul.
   a. Mat. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
   b. Worth so much Christ died.

2. God knows the individual personally; Psa 139:1-12 “O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou comestest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.”

3. If God knows the fall of the sparrow, He knows me; Mat. 10:29-30 “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

C. Jesus demonstrated his concern with the individual.

1. He taught Nicodemus; John 3
2. He taught the Samaritan woman; John 4

Conclusion: In the midst of change, God’s word and His kingdom do not; Mat. 24:35 “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” Heb. 12:28 “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” Even in this highly scientific age the Bible is still relevant.