IS THE BIBLE GOD'S ONLY BOOK?

To answer this question, let us consult what the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has said in John 16:13. To the original apostles, located in the eastern hemisphere, the Savior made the promise, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth. . ." [emphasis mine]. It is very important to underscore that these words were spoken to men in the first century. These specific men at that particular time would be led into **all truth**. Obviously, they could not be guided into all truth if all truth had not been revealed during their collective lifetime.

In the very next chapter, John 17:17 records a portion of the Master's prayer to His Heavenly Father in which He said, ". . .Thy word is truth." This "word" is not said to contain truth. Instead, this Word of God to which Christ referred is the truth itself. The "all truth" (chapter 16) to be revealed in the first century is to be known as the Word of God (chapter 17).

The Apostle Paul adds that the full revelation from God to man would come in the form of Scripture.

"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 perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

We now come to the crucial question. What volume of Scripture was actually completed during the lives of the original apostles in the eastern hemisphere and is known as the Word of God? The Bible is that book. There can be no other answer. On the authority of Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul, the Bible is ALL of God's truth to mankind. An overview of its contents further confirms that the Bible is intended to be a comprehensive and exclusive guide for faith and life. It begins with creation and ends with a description of eternity. Between are doctrines and case studies addressing man's deepest needs, aspirations, and motives (Hebrews 4:12). What could we possibly need to know concerning time or preparation for eternity which is not found in the Bible?

The words of Proverbs 30:6 stand as a conclusive indictment against the erroneous concept of modern revelation. "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

Lloyd A. Larkin lalarkin@burgoyne.com