

The Importance Of Having It In Writing

by Bill Crews

Business Partnerships

No one thinks it wise for two men, no matter how long they have been friends, to enter into a business partnership on the basis of mere oral agreements. Everyone concurs that it should all be in writing. The capital that each has or agrees to put into the business, the authority and duties of each, what shall be done with the profits, the salary that each shall draw, etc. – all of it should be clearly “spelled out” in a written contract.

Many businesses have failed, many partnerships have been dissolved, many friends have fallen out with each other over failures to **have it in writing**.

Estates And Inheritances

Everyone agrees that if a couple wants to be sure that their possessions, whether of real or sentimental value, accumulated over a lifetime, are disposed of according to their wishes, they should **make a will**. The only way to be sure is to **have it in writing**. This has far more weight than someone’s testimony about what he remembers “dad,” “mom,” “uncle,” “aunt,” “brother” or “sister,” while still living, told him. Often it comes down to one person’s word against another’s, neither of which may be the truth, though both may sound good.

Archaeology

Archaeologists, in studying and learning about ancient peoples, are interested in fossils and artifacts. An “artifact” is “any object made by human work.” An archaeologist would be quick to tell us that the most important artifacts, the most informative, are in the form of **writings** – chronicles, inscriptions, letters, records, notes – on stone, vellum, clay, papyrus, paper. From their **writings** he learns far more about the people he is studying.

And Now Religion

How could God most effectively make known, make clear, and preserve His will for men? The answer is **in writing**. The Bible is the book, the only book, that contains **in writing** the revelation of God and God’s will for man. God did not choose to, and God did not, present His will for man in the form of oral traditions to be memorized by a few who would pass it on to the next generation in the same fashion.

By Moses the story of creation, the early history of mankind and the origin of the Jewish nation were all **written down**. By Moses God gave that nation a law which He had Moses to preserve **in writing**. By Moses and others God caused a record to be made **in writing** of His dealings with that nation. The words of the prophets sent to that nation were also preserved **in writing**. All of this is found in that division of the Bible that we call the **Old Testament**.

The **New Testament**, the covenant that God has made with all nations through His Son, Jesus Christ, is also all **written down**. It is the better covenant, the perfect covenant, the reason for, the fulfillment of and the explanation of the Old Covenant. Everything that God wants men to know, to believe, to do, and to be are fully provided for in the Scriptures (*literally, writings*) of the New Testament. God makes His will known to, God communicates with men through, the things **written** in the New Testament. Please read 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; John 14:25-26; 16:12-13; 2 Peter 1:3. The prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles and prophets of the New Testament (Ephesians 3:1-2; 2 Peter 3:1-2) all did their work and fell asleep, but their **writings**, the record, the Scriptures remain – and from these alone can we learn the will of God.

The Bible speaks of false Christs (Matthew 24:4-5, 24), false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:3; Revelation 2:2), false prophets (Matthew 24:24; 1 John 4:1), false teachers (2 Peter 2:1) and false miracles (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 13:13-15). The Bible speaks of “**strong delusions**” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12) and calls upon us to “*prove all things*” (1 Thessalonians

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