Revelation and Communication – Biblical Truth

1. Revelation: (1) Romans 1:18-20, and (2) 2 Timothy 3:15-17

(Romans 1:18 – 20 ESV) 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

(2 Timothy 3:14 – 17 ESV) 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

2. Purpose (Goal) of the Bible: 2 Timothy 3:14-17, John 5:39, John 20:30-31

(John 5:39-40 ESV) 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

(John 20:30-31 ESV) 30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

3. The Bible: Inscription, Transmission, and Illumination by Holy Spirit

4. Preaching and Evangelism (1 Corinthians 15:1-11), Bible study of Teaching-Learning: Today’s Inductive Bible Study (Harper), Reader-Response model, Narrative model (Story-telling)

5. Secure Communication
(1) Secure Medium or Content, for example, with dreams, parables, paradox, etc.
   (Genesis 40, Daniel 2, Matthew 13, Matthew 22:23-46, Daniel 12:4, Rev 5:1-5)
(2) Secured Role of Prophets and Apostles (Deuteronomy 18:15-22, John 14:25, Galatians 1:6-9, Revelation 22:18-19), and
Some Popular (Contemporary & Popular) Models of Communication

1. Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC)
   “Rhetoric” is “the faculty of observing in any given case the available means of persuasion” (*Rhetoric* 1335b). Aristotle’s speaker-centered model received perhaps its fullest development in the hands of Roman educator Quintilian (ca. 35-95 A.D.), whose *Institutio Oratoria* was filled with advice on the full training of a “good” speaker-statesman.

   A Speaker (1) discovers rational (logos in the message), emotional (pathos in the audience), and ethical (ethos in the speaker) proofs (pistis), (2) Arranges those proofs strategically, (3) clothes the ideas in clear and compelling words, and (4) delivers the product appropriately.

2. Shannon (1949)

   **The Shannon-Weaver Mathematical Model, 1949**

   Some Efforts and Results to Prove the Biblical Truth (Romans 1:18-25):
   (1) Pascal’s wager. (17c).
   The philosophy uses the following logic (excerpts from *Pensées*, part III, note 233):
   (1) "God is, or He is not". (2) A Game is being played... where heads or tails will turn up.
   (3) According to reason, you can defend neither of the propositions. (4) You must wager.
   (It’s not optional.) (5) Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is. Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing.
   (6) Wager, then, without hesitation that He is. (...)

   There is here an infinity of an infinitely happy life to gain, a chance of gain against a finite number of chances of loss, and what you stake is finite. And so our proposition is of infinite force, when there is the finite to stake in a game where there are equal risks of gain and of loss, and the infinite to gain.

   (2) Gödel’s Ontological Proof of God.
   The scholarly attempt of ontological proof went back to over-1000 years including Anselm (11c), Leibniz, Descartes. (By the way, one in Computer Science major will learn about the work of Anselm and of Gödel in the course like theory of computation, machine learning, or mathematical logic, etc.). So far all leading logicians agree that Gödel’s proof (20c) is flawless including Russell.