



# The Communiqué

The Anglican Church Of India  
filiated To The Worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion)

October  
2010

“BUT NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD,  
AND BECOME THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT,  
FOR SINCE BY MAN CAME DEATH,  
BY MAN ALSO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD,  
FOR IN ADAM ALL DIE,  
EVEN SO IN CHRIST ALL BE MADE ALIVE”  
(1 Cor. 15: 20 -22)

“BUT SPEAK THOU THE THINGS WHICH BECOME  
SOUND DOCTRINE”(TITUS 2: 1)

(Part VI)

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CANNON (Rule) OF SCRIPTURE

### 1. Bible is the Canon (Rule), or authoritative standard of religion and morals.

The word canon signifies properly in classical Greek, a straight rod, especially a carpenter's rule. Thus it came to be used figuratively of a “testing rule” in art, logic, grammar, and ethics. In the early ages of Christianity, the term was used generally to denote a standard of opinion and practice. Its first direct application to the Holy Scriptures occurs in the “imprimatur” appended by Amphilochius to his catalogue (A.D 380): Origen seems to have termed these books Canonical: {meaning an yardstick to measure standards} Christians regard Bible as (standard) genuine and of Divine Authority.

### 2. Books which are misconstrued as part of Bible

The Apocrypha was an appendage to the Bible like a commentary and is not part of the original text. Without understanding this fact, many of the critics, particularly the Muslim Ahmadyars have pointed certain discrepancies and errors. In the year 1545 A.D in the council of Trent, the Roman Catholics, through a proclamation added the Apocrypha as part of the Old Testament even though the original translations did not contain the Apocrypha. This proclamation was made to justify some of their practice of doctrines derived from the Apocrypha. The following, which are considered false doctrines, were pointed out by the Protestant Christians. (a) Prayers and offerings are to be made for the dead to take away their sins, (b) achieve atonement by almsgiving, (c) the pre existence of souls, (d) justification of suicide, (e) cruelty to slaves, (f) acceptance of the doctrine of emanation, and (g) the doctrine of purgatory. All these are against the canons of the Bible and as such are not considered as the inspired word of God. Hence any criticism made on this does not affect the purity of the Bible.

### 3. Non-canonical books

Non canonical books are those not specified in the canon. **Appocryphal books derive their name from a Greek term, which signifies (i) hidden (ii) of unknown authority, (iii) spurious.** These books appended in the Septuagint and Vulgate versions were not originally written in Hebrew, but in Greek, and hence were of later origin than the Old Testament, and were not counted as genuine by the Jews. Apocrypha were read for historical purposes and for instruction of manners. External and internal evidence alike, is against their being inspired, and hence considered as not part of the canon of Scripture, Therefore it is of no authority in the Church of God or is it to be otherwise approved, or made use of, It is just like any other human writing. **The Apocryphal books were never declared to be authoritative**

**Scripture until the Roman Catholic council of Trent in A.D 1546.** This was done mostly to justify their earlier practice of doctrines pertaining to, prayers and offerings for the dead, Atonement and Salvation by Almsgiving, Preexistence of Souls, the doctrine of Emanations, of Purgatory, Justification of suicide, and justification of cruelty to slaves, etc which were non canonical. The first Vatican Council held in 1869 – 70 reaffirmed the decision of the Roman Catholic Church to add the Apocrypha to the Canon. **But the Westminster confession in A.D 1643 written by Protestant leaders states that, “the books commonly called Apocrypha not being of divine inspiration are no part of the Canon of Scripture, and therefore are of no authority in the Church of God, or to be any otherwise approved or made use of than other human writing”. The Anglican Church of England in its thirty nine Articles of Faith, (Kindly refer The Common Prayer Book) takes a mediating position, holding that “the Church doth read (Apocrypha) for example of life and instruction of manners: but yet doth it not apply them to confess any doctrine”. The Apocryphal books contain numerous historical, chronological, and doctrinal errors and are the main source for many criticisms against Christianity. Hence it is most important to distinguish Bible from such non-canonical books.**

### 4. Distinguishing God inspired Scripture

**The characteristics which distinguish a Divine Declaration from a purely human one are based on the following.**

#### (a) By Divine declaration

Divine declarations like, And God said unto Moses, “I AM THAT I AM” - *Not comparable* - (Exodus 3:14) “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last” *beyond time limitations* - (Revelations 22 : 13) are unique.

**(b) By Divine Authority:-** Each book should bring out the Divine Authority. Each book in the Bible bears the claim of Divine Authority by explicit sayings such as “be holy” exhibit Divine Authority, “Thus says the Lord”, “And the Lord said unto me”, “speak thou”, “Ye shall therefore be holy” exhibit divine authority.

**(c) By God Inspired men:-** The word of God had always been given to his people through chosen Holy Men of God, known as Prophets, Apostles etc. Every Biblical writer had a prophetic function, even if he was not a prophet by occupation. There are also warnings against false claim as Apostle, and false prophets and false Messiahs. In 2 Thessalonians 2:2 Saint Paul warns against false claim as Apostle, in Corinthians 11:13 he warns against false Apostles. Similarly St John warns against false Messiahs in 1 John 2:18,19. Hence books written by such false prophets and false Apostles, did not stand the test of canonical law, and were not accepted as part of the Holy Bible.

#### (d). By the Unchanging (Consistent) Word of God: -

The consistency of the saying, should be made out with the earlier sayings of the Word of God in the Bible as God does not lie, and does not err in his sayings. In the book of Numbers 23:19 it is written “ God is not a man, that he should lie: neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall not do it? Or hath he spoken and he shall not make it good? Exodus 34:6 reads as “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth...”. So any writing claiming God's authority cannot be inconsistent or

contrary to God's earlier pronouncements. This is the reason why the Apocrypha was rejected as non-canonical.

**(e) By the quickening Word of God:-**

In Psalm 33: 6, 9 we read as "By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." Jesus Christ proclaimed in the gospel according to St. John in 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life". Isaiah 45:23 reads as "I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear..." In 2 Timothy 3:16 we read "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." So any writing claiming God's Authority should be based on life transforming Word of God only.

**(f) By the Recognition and acceptance by God's people: -**

The word, "Bible" came into English from the Greek through Latin. The Byblus or Papyrus reed which formed the recording material for ancient books, originated this word. The word of God learnt by heart and transmitted orally through generations and subsequently recorded and known as the Masoretic Text (Masorah meaning tradition) were the earlier manuscripts, and these formed the originals in Hebrew. The accuracy of these texts were confirmed by the Hebrew scripture found in 1947 at Qumran caves and known as the Dead Sea Scrolls which were 1200 years older than the Masoretic Text. These are the oldest surviving copies. Written clay tablets found in Ugarit Nuzi, and at Mari, written tablets at Elba near Syria, and scrolls found at Oxyrhynchos in Egypt are some examples of abundant written material found from Biblical lands, all lending to the accuracy of the text. The British Museum, the Public Library at Leningrad and the university of Alexandria have such copies preserved. There is also a Samaritan Bible known as Abisha Scroll recorded by a Priest.

The Greek texts were recorded on papyrus a relatively cheap but not very durable material made from the pith of a reed plant found in the Nile valley. These are now in the Chester Beatty Museum in Dublin. A reference to **Annexure 2** furnishes details about early manuscripts of the Holy Bible

**(g) By the reliability of the canon**

**All the 36 books of the Bible were recorded over a period of 1400 years before Christ and the New Testament portion within about 100 years after. The historical narratives and its philosophical message based on such historical events and its ancient origin makes it reliable. Thus it is easily understandable by a common man. Recent Archaeological and historical discoveries have proved the bible to be an ancient and authenticated book in the world.**

The accuracy, purity, and the integrity of the canon could be well understood from the following. God's word is recorded as "**For he spake, and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast' (Psalm 33:9), "Now therefore write this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel" (Deuteronomy 31:19)**

**"And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thy heart" (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7,)** and that it was commanded verbally, and holy men being inspired recorded them for the understanding of future generations. The same is asserted in **2 Timothy 3:16 "all scripture is given by the inspiration of God" and in 2 Peter 1 :20, 21 "knowing this first, that no Prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost".** These inspirations guarantees that the divine will attributes, God's expectations, demands, and instructions are totally accurate and

that they are not as per the will of man. The Jews understood these, and handled God's word carefully with all due reverence, and preserved them. Thus the Jewish Scribes became the preservers of Law. Again when the Jews were displaced and scattered on being taken as captives, and had to learn other languages, they got them translated. Initially by reciting they were transmitted, and later by recording them. When Hebrew language became extinct around 500 A .D. the Massorates carefully compared the manuscript copies and prepared the original text in other languages. The 'Dead Sea Scrolls' which were produced some 1200 years before Christ and discovered in 1947, had proved the purity of the Old Testament texts.

**UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE - Part V**

**It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4 : 4 )**

**4. DOCTRINE OF LAYING ON OF HANDS**

**Signifies the Power of God** In the Scriptures, the term hand is used to indicate power (1 Samuel 5: 6,7) and right hand and hands of God to indicate God's omnipotent power and strength (Exodus 15:6 Ps 17:7, 20 :26)

**Signifies Consecration** It is God who commanded laying on of hands on the head of sacrifice by the offerer (Leviticus 1:4, 3:2) to signify that the person who offers, is willing to be considered one with the victim (sacrifice) and to impress his obligation towards God. The term sacrifice means, to make, consecrate an offering by way of expiation and propitiation, or as a token, acknowledgement of thanksgiving. Accordingly God commanded that Levites, should also lay hands on the sacrifice (Leviticus 16:21, 26:14, Numbers 8 :12)

**Signifies act of blessing** Again it was our Lord Jesus Christ who laid hands to bestow blessings on little children (Luke 24:50 Mark 10:16) and with raised hands on his followers (Luke 24:50)

**Signifies anointing** It was God who commanded laying on of hands for anointing, consecration and commissioning of his chosen men, King Saul by the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 10:1), Joshua by Moses ( Numbers 27:23, Deuteronomy 34 :9) Saul by the disciple Annanias (Acts 9:17) and the Levites by the children of Israel (Numbers 8:10) Accordingly the Apostles and others practiced laying on of hands for consecration of ministers (Acts 6:6, 13:3,1 Timothy 4:14, 5:22, 2 Timothy 1:6) God honoured such practices, by the manifestation of the Holy Spirit on them. (Acts 8: 9, 17, 19: 6)

**For healing:-** Our Lord Jesus Christ also laid hands for healing (Mark 6:5, Luke 4:40) and this was practiced by his disciples also as per his commandments (Matthew 16 :18, James 5 :14, 15 ,Acts 9 :17) Our Lord Jesus Christ healed the sick and gave power and commanded his disciples to go, preach, and to cast out devils and to heal the sick,(Mark 6:5-13). Again in his great commandment he has commanded his disciples to lay hands on the sick so as to make them recover from their sickness.

**For signs and wonders:-** Members of the early church were able to see for themselves the effect of laying on of hands, namely signs and wonders. (Acts 5:12) The same is now in practice by anointing with oil as recorded in James 5:14, 15.

**For manifestation of the Holy Spirit:-** The Samaritan believers received the Holy Spirit, when Peter and John laid their hands on them. (Acts 8:16,17) Saul received the Holy Spirit when Ananias a disciple, laid hands on him (Acts 9:10,17) Similarly disciples at Ephesus experienced manifestation of the Holy Spirit, on St Paul's laying on of hands (Acts 19:6)

**For consecration to special ministries:-** When God wanted Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses, he commanded Moses to lay his hands on him. (Numbers 27: 18-20, Deuteronomy 34:9)

God knew laying on of hands by Moses, and Joshua was filled with wisdom. Ananias first laid hands on Saul (St. Paul) and again when he was separated for a particular ministry, the prophets and teachers at Antioch, laid their hands on Paul and Barnabas. (Acts 13:1-4) They were sent forth of the Holy Spirit. Here we see that the laying on of hands is not for the individual but for the ministry only.

**Signifies imparting of Gifts from God** Timothy was instructed by Paul not to neglect the gift and to meditate when he reminded the fact of his being consecrated by the presbytery. (1 Tim 4:14) and again in 2 Tim 1:6 Saint Paul refers to the same as gift of God by putting on of his hands on Timothy

From all of the above, we understand that, what man does is only a token and what God does is reality and hence this is approved of God. Laying on of hands is God ordained and whatever transpires after laying on of hands, is the gift of God.

**Caution on laying on of hands** God's gifts cannot be misused by man. Hence there is also a warning given by Saint Paul. He records it as "lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure". (1 Timothy 5:22) This means that one cannot misuse God's gift, and that a sinner requires forgiveness by God before getting the gift.

## 5. THE DOCTRINE OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Death is described as total and final cessation of all vital functions in the body, (Genesis 25:11 physical death), or cessation of spiritual life, (Romans 7:24, 1 John 3:14 - 17 spiritual death). The dead are those deprived of natural life without warmth or fervor, (Ruth 1:8, Job 1:9) or energy in the spiritual life (Ephesians 2:1, 1 Timothy 5:6). The Bible teaches us that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) It also says that "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead." (1 Corinthians 15:21) God had warned Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and said," For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17) There was a spiritual death, he hid himself, and feared God's presence, and incurred the wrath of God for disobedience. He was driven away from the Garden of Eden. But God in his mercy clothed him with righteousness and paid a price (shedding of blood to give life – blood has life (Genesis 9:4) for his redemption from Satan's clutches. The coats of skins given of God was a shadow of things to come, shedding of innocent blood for redemption, and clothing him with righteousness ton appear in his original status as a righteous person in the presence of God from his present fallen position. On that day itself, God promised the seed of the woman, the Lord Jesus Christ, as Saviour and redeemer. This is explained in Colossians 1:17-22. Our Lord Jesus Christ abolished death (2 Timothy 1:10), swallowed death to victory (1 Corinthians 15: 54) that he might destroy him that had the power of death (Hebrews 2:14) He himself explained this to the Sadducees who did not believe in resurrection by referring to God's word, "I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead but of the living" (Matthew 22:31) The resurrection was foretold in the prophecy in Isaiah 26:19 and in Job 19:25,26

**RESURRECTION:** -- There are more than 40 references to resurrection in the New Testament. There are two kinds of resurrection. The first one is known as resurrection of the Just (Luke 14:13,14) or, the resurrection of life (John 5:28,29) or, a better resurrection (Hebrews 11:35) or, the first resurrection (Revelations 20:5,6) The second one is the resurrection of the wicked, or, resurrection of damnation (John 5:29)

**THE ORDER OF RESURRECTION:-** (1) Our Lord Jesus Christ is the first to rise from the dead. (2) Then they that are Christ's at (Rapture) his second coming to the earth (1 Corinthians 15:23) and (3) afterwards the wicked dead (Revelations 20:4). It is depicted as follows.

R		R
A		E
P	They that are	V
T	Christ's at his	E
U	coming	L
R	1 Cor 15 22 -25	A
E		T
		I
		O
		N

Christ the First Fruits

"The, Now" Length of interval not known	Raptured Saints Tribulation Approx 7 years Revelations 20:4a	Tribulation of Saints 1000 years Revelations 20: 4b	The Wicked Dead Revelations 20:5
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Saint Paul's goal was resurrection as recorded in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. This can be better understood if we read what he has recorded in Philipians 3:7-11 This doctrine which are explicitly stated, and revealed are not accepted by many to their damnation, in that they fail to believe on God's word (1 Corinthians 15:13)

## 6 DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

**Judgment:-** The Bible refers to the term judgment, to the following (a) The spirit of wisdom and prudence enabling one to know and discern right from wrong and good from evil (Psalm 72 :1) (b) Courts of Judgment (Matthew 5:21) (c) Justice and equity (Isaiah 1:17, Luke 11:42) (d) The sentence or decision of a Judge (1 King 3:28) (e) The righteous Statutes and Commandments of God (Psalm 119:7,20) (f) God's decrees and purposes concerning nations or persons (Romans 11:33) (g) The last judgment (Matthew 25:31-46)

**Judge:-** Abraham acknowledged saying "God is a judge of all" (Genesis 18:25) The Psalmist acknowledges by saying "And the heavens shall declare his righteousness, for God is a Judge himself" (Psalm 50:6) Our Lord Jesus Christ declared "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto his Son" (John 5:22) Isaiah prophecies saying "For the Lord is a God of judgment" (Isaiah 30:18) In 1 Chronicles 16:33 we read "Then shall the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the Lord, because he cometh to judge the earth. See also Psalm 96:13.

**Who will be judged:-** He shall judge the (a) whole world (Romans 3:6), (b) judge among the heathen (Psalm 110 :6) (c) shall judge the righteous (Ecclesiastes 3:17) ( d) and shall judge the quick and the dead (Revelations 20:2, 2 Tim 4:1) (i) the believers for rewards (1 Corinthians 3:11, 15, 1 Corinthians 4:4,5,) (ii) the un believers (Revelations 20:11 ,12 ,15) (iii) the ungodly men (2 Peter :7) (iv) and Satan and fallen Angels (Jude 6 ) Satan will be judged (a) before, (Revelations 20:1,6) (b) during, (Revelations 20:7) and (c) after (Revelations 20:10) the millennium

**What will be judged:-** God will judge according to **thy ways** (Ezekiel 7:3, 8:27 , 34:20, 22) and according to **thy work** (Ecclesiastes 12:14, Matthew 16:27). He will also judge **every idle word uttered** (Matthew 12:36-47, Luke 11:31, 32).

**On the day of judgment:-** All will stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Revelations 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10) the wicked reserved for the day of judgment (2 Peter 2 :9), intolerable than Sodom and Gomorrah, for those who rejected the gospel (Matthew 10 :15) Men will give account of all idle words spoken by them .So judgment is as sure as death and resurrection, so let us be beware! (Acts 17: 31)

**There are two great judgments:-** One preceding the millennium and it is recorded in 2 Corinthians 5: 10 “As judgment seat of Christ”. The second one is following the millennium as recorded in Rev 20:11, 15. “On The great white throne “

#### **MEDITATION**

**Blessed is the man ... But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night (Psalm 1: 1,2)**

**Let us read the following scripture portion in Isa 58:13&14, slowly, understanding the depth of the meaning it conveys as part of our meditation**

#### **THE CONDITIONS**

**If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath from doing thy pleasure on my Holy day**

**And call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable**

**And shall honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure nor speaking thine own words**

#### **THE PROFIT**

**Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord**

**And I will cause thee to ride high upon the high places of the earth,**

**And feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father**

#### **THE SURE PROMISE**

**For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken**

#### **WORSHIP**

***I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy, and in thy fear will I worship toward thy Holy Temple “ (Psalm 6:7)***

**In the order of worship for Morning Prayer, we sing Psalm 95. For the modernists this may seem to be a routine “But for the Anglicans this is with the following understanding that they are in the presence of our King and God.**

**”God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble Therefore will not we fear”, “The Lord of Hosts is with us” (Psalm 46:1,2 11.)**

**Sing praises to God, sing praises, sing praises to our King, sing praises For God is the King of all the earth (Therefore) sing ye praises with understanding (in the heart) (Psalm 47:6,7)**

**Next time when you sing, sing from the bottom of your heart realizing the full meaning of the text and “ shout unto God with the voice of triumph” (Psalm47:1) Let modernists also come to understand !**

#### **LIVE WITNESS**

***Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:16)***

**“Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord and my servant whom I have chosen : that ye may know and believe me , and understand that I am he , before me there was no God formed , neither shall there be after me “ (Isaiah 44:10)**

#### **OUTREACH**

#### **INFORMATION**

**The Arch Bishop, Most Reverend Samuel P Prakash has proposed to convene a Synod meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2010 at Allahabad to discuss about conduct of General Council meetings**

#### **FEED BACK**

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*To defend the Christian Faith defined in the Holy Scriptures and as enshrined in the Book of Common Prayer*

*To work for the unity of the Church under Christ, based on sound Doctrine and discipline as exemplified by the Chicago – Lambeth Quadrilateral of 1886 - 88*

*To restore the Church to her primary mission of proclaiming the Gospel*

#### **GENERAL PRINT POLICY**

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