

wrestling with **doubt,** finding **faith**

SERMON NOTES

Week 2 January 14, 2024

“Is the Bible True?”

Deuteronomy 7:2; 1 Samuel 15:3; Psalm 104:5;

Luke 24:50-51; Matthew 5:27-28, 28:16;

John 1:1, 14, 8:10-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17



I. Scripture and Doubt

A. Many people wrestle with the _____ for various reasons.

- The truth about the Biblical stories.
- Violence attributed to God.
- The Bible sanctioning slavery.
- The treatment of women in the Bible.
- Factual errors.
- Contradictions in the Bible.

B. Sometimes our doubts are focused on a tiny area of scripture and we miss the overarching _____.

II. Inerrancy of Scripture

A. _____ means that the Bible is without error in everything it says about science, history... whatever is affirmed in the Bible.

B. Verbal plenary inspiration means God choose every single _____ in scripture.

C. Some people argue that if you can't _____ the Bible everywhere, you can't trust it anywhere.

III. Another Approach

A. Instead of telling the scripture writers exactly what to say, the Bible can be thought of more like a _____.

B. The Scripture writers are influenced by the Holy Spirit, but they are also people of their _____.

C. In the Gospels, we find Jesus pushes back and he reinterprets _____.

IV. Wonderful Words of Life

A. There are several tools to helps us determine what is _____ in scripture:

- Read all scripture through the lens of Jesus.
- Remember the greatest commandments and the golden rule.
- We see things in scripture through the overarching themes of love, compassion, justice and mercy.
- We can discuss and debate scriptures that trouble us with our faithful friends and family members.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you.

B. The difference between Walter Isaacson's biographies and the Bible is that we believe that God's holy Spirit _____ the scripture writers.

C. When we open the Bible, we find that God _____ to us.

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *January 15-20, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

There are many areas of scripture that people wrestle with for various reasons: Are the stories true and trustworthy? Why does God order genocide of various people? Why does the Bible seem to sanction slavery? Why are women treated so awfully in scripture? How can we reconcile the factual errors and contradictions? Is the Bible reliable?

Monday: Jeremiah 1:1-3, 2 Peter 1:16-21

Finding images from the writers' culture or sporadic factual errors in the Bible shouldn't trouble us. God didn't make the Bible writers into robots. How can a focus on the central message, rather than on lesser details, deepen and enrich your Bible study?

Tuesday: Leviticus 24:18-20, Matthew 5:38-45

"The Bible is more than just a big book of inspirational verses and some do's and don'ts. It's a story. And like any story, it requires proper context. The Bible we hold... today has been translated across multiple languages and was originally written in a culture much different than ours... without proper context you will ultimately read the Bible out of context."* How can you learn to better relate all the Bible's "pieces" to the big story it tells about God and God's ways?

Wednesday: Genesis 17:9-14, Acts 15:4-19, Galatians 5:1-6

These readings are a useful case study because few Christians today demand circumcision. After the Christian Pharisees (Acts 15:5) urged a circumcision requirement, James quoted the prophet Amos, who'd said God aimed to reach all nations. Based on the apostles' evidence that God accepted Gentiles who had faith, the apostles agreed it was better to follow Amos than Genesis in this case. What can we learn from their example about how to apply the Bible?

Thursday: John 5:35-40, Hebrews 1:1-4

In the message, Pastor Eric said that "all scripture needs to be read through the lens of Jesus' life and teaching." In what ways can making Jesus the ultimate standard of truth cast clearer light on many of the Bible's difficult parts?

Friday: Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 2:11-16

After years working mainly with "Gentiles" (Greek and Roman pagans), Paul wrote about people outside the "right" faith who "instinctively do what the Law requires," who "show the proof of the Law written on their hearts" (Romans 2:14-15). He had seen that there were (and are) honest people outside the Judeo-Christian faith who love and respond to God. Are you able to believe that God's grace can extend to people like that?

MOVING FORWARD

The Bible is the combination of fallible human authors and God's inspiration. This is helpful in making sense of those troubling passages. When reading scripture, we should always view it through the lens of Jesus' life and teaching. If it doesn't line up with Jesus' teachings, then we need to ask questions. And when we read the Bible through the lens of Jesus, God speaks to us truth about Him and His will for us.

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Bible, B) message. IIA) inerrancy, B) word, C) trust.
IIIA) biography, B) time, C) scripture. IVA) true, B) influenced, C) speaks.*

**Speegle, Tyler. (2022, December 30). Five signs you're reading the Bible all wrong. RELEVANT Magazine.
<https://relevantmagazine.com/life5/new-you/5-signs-youre-reading-the-bible-all-wrong/>*