

The Bible is inspired to communicate truth from God to mankind.

But we must be careful.

1 John 4:5,6

Today's Major Teachings About The the Bible

Modernism: "Parts of the Bible CONTAIN inspirational ideas for our lives."

Neo-Orthodoxy: "The Bible BECOMES the word of God according to what we each get out of it. My "truth" may not be your "truth."

Orthodoxy: "The Bible IS THE inspired, word of God and our only source of truth for salvation, life, and good works."

Deuteronomy 28:1

C.H. Spurgeon, The Billy Graham of his day, when asked what he said to defend the Bible as the inspired word of God, stated, "*Defend the Bible? I would as soon defend a lion! Unchain it and it will defend itself.*"

OUR LAST QUESTION: Is the Bible alive in your life?

Hebrews 4:12

John Stott, an English Anglican Evangelical, who, in 2005, *Time* magazine ranked among the 100 most influential people in the world said, "*Christians who neglect the Bible simply do not mature.*"

Hebrews 5:12–14

2 Peter 3:15–18

NEXT WEEK: We'll talk about the essential of faith in the life of every believer.

What is it?

How do we exercise faith in our lives?

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17



Essentials of Christianity—Week 3: The Bible

Purpose of this series: To clarify and solidify essential truths of the Christian faith. **If these truths are missing, incorrect, or incomplete** from our personal belief matrix we are not living biblical Christianity.

1 John 4:1,4-6

THIS WEEK... CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE IS ESSENTIAL

Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, former Director of the British Museum, a British paleographer and biblical and classical scholar, categorically stated that, "*The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true Word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries.*"

Our Warnings: The 1 in 60 Rule:

"For each **degree off** in the way you're heading, you'll be off course 1 nautical mile over a 60-mile distance."

"Every type of destruction that human philosophy, human science, human reason, human art, human cunning, human force, and human brutality could bring to bear against a book has been brought to bear against this Book, and yet the Bible stands absolutely unshaken today. At times almost all the wise and great of the earth have been pitted against the Bible, and only an obscure few for it. Yet it has stood."

Dr R.A.Torrey

QUESTION 1: "Why do we have a Bible?" What is it for?

The Scenario

God's Problem

God's Solution - God's Revelation To Man

General Revelation / 2 channels

Internal - God-shaped Vacuum

External - Romans 1:18-21

Not sufficient

Special Revelation

Psalms 119:9-16,41,42

QUESTION 2: “Why doesn’t God just speak and tell us audibly what He wants?”

He used to: Genesis 3:9 / Exodus 20:1 / Luke 9:35

Why did He stop?

Exodus 20:18,19 / Deuteronomy 18:16-18

So... Exodus 24:12 / Psalm 40:7 / Psalm 102:18 / Romans 15:4

“...the original manuscripts of the Bible were given by revelation of God and thereby invested with absolute authority for Christian thought and life. This means that whatever is taught in the Bible is, for the Christian, the final court of appeal.” Dr. Norman Geisler of Dallas Theological Seminary,

QUESTION 3: “How do we know the written message originally given by God is the same message we have today?”

What God creates, He is totally capable of protecting.

Isaiah 55:11 / Psalm 119:89

QUESTION 4: “How is the Bible supposed to affect my life?”

5 Responses:

1. Work at handling God’s word. – 2 Timothy 2:15
2. Don’t listen to just anyone about God’s word. – 2 Peter 3:15- 18
3. Be a CSI about what’s taught. – Acts 17:11
4. Guard yourself against false teachers. – 2 Peter 1:19 – 2:3
5. Take what God’s word says seriously in your everyday life. – 2 Tim 3:16 / Rom 15:4

QUESTION 5: “Why is regularly studying the Bible so hard?”

We are in a war: We need to be equipped

Ephesians 6:10-18

2 Timothy 2:15

Hebrews 6:11,12

QUESTION 6: “Why doesn’t the Bible make sense to non-believers?”

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

2 Corinthians 4:2-4

But for Believers:

John 14:26

John 16:13

QUESTION 7: “What happens if God doesn’t speak to me through the Bible but through dreams and visions?”

1 John 4:6

1 John 4:1

Acts 17:11

Psalm 119:9-16

CONCLUSION: The Bible was never meant to be an answer book.

Many things are just none of our business.

Deuteronomy 29:29

Some things are not revealed.

Revelation 10:4

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

“Some people are troubled by the things in the Bible they can’t understand. The things that trouble me are the things I can understand.” Mark Twain

The Bible is our only offensive weapon... but shouldn’t be an “offensive weapon”.

It wasn’t written for us to use as a weapon to win arguments... but as a way of lovingly sharing the gospel from a source that’s empowered by the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

2 Corinthians 4:2

God’s word is our ONLY source of God’s truth.