

What Do We Believe About The Bible?

Notes

February 10, 2013

Psalm 19:7-11

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Introduction - Most of us stake our eternity on claims that are made in the Bible. Why?

It's an important question.

What we believe about the Bible, to a great extent,
determines most of our other faith beliefs.

So, what do evangelical Christians believe about the Bible?

1. We believe that the Bible is **inspired**, that it comes from the very mouth of God.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV).

"No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20-21).

2. We believe that the Bible has **authority**.

It is to be...

- believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms
- obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires
- embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises

Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matthew 28:18)

We don't worship the Bible; we worship the God of the Bible.

3. We believe our current Protestant Bible is the correct **canon**.

“And those who will walk by this rule (Greek-kanon), peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.” (Galatians 6:16)

Canonization (discerning which books were God-authored), took place over 400 years, and we believe God’s Spirit made sure we got it right.

“The Church assuredly did not make the New Testament. The two grew up together.”
Dr. Foakes-Jackson

4. We believe the Bible is **trustworthy**.

God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture in order thereby to reveal Himself to lost humankind.

The Bible is trustworthy and accurate (infallible and inerrant) in all that it says and it will not lead us astray.

“...the Truth was directly handed down from the Apostles and put into this document (Bible), under the influence of the Holy Spirit. You can trust this book.”
Chuck Colson

Questions

Which of these beliefs about the Bible are easy for you to embrace?

Which are difficult?

Can you see why our beliefs about the Bible make a difference?

Psalm 1:1-6

Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked

or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,

but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,

and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season

and whose leaf does not wither—

whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff

that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.