

Sermon Notes

Christianity's Greatest Questions: Can I Trust The Bible?

November 16-17th, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **Christianity's Greatest Questions**
- This series is in the line of apologetics/defending the faith based on my experiences and questions.
 - o Set the stage for curiosity: Not social pressure to conform, but freedom to explore the things of God.
 - o Three things needed to safely explore the things of God. Significant miss on one of these is bad.
 - 1) Study the Scriptures.
 - 2) Hear from God/Holy Spirit.
 - 3) Align yourself with the right people. Show me your friends...
- **Can I Trust the Bible?**
 - o Short answer is YES!! If you are cool with that, great! I think you will still get something good.
- My Process: **2 Timothy 3:16-17** Why do I believe the Bible is the holy, inspired, inerrant, word of God?
 - o At first I didn't. I figured people probably messed it up.
 - Argument: God wouldn't let that happen! What about the church? Why let that go bad??
 - o A couple reasons people give for not believing the Bible:
 - 1) Bible full of contradictions. No. Ex: **Matthew 27:37-44 vs Luke 23:38-43.**
 - 2) Bible says crazy stuff. (Creation, Jonah, Stopping the sun.) Play, "Where is the crazy?"
 - o I studied it first. Attempt to prove out verse by verse. Summer of '93 Bible listening.
 - o **James 4:11-12** had a big impact on me.
 - I won't have enough info but I need to choose. How do I want to face God??
 - Like heading toward a cliff. We have to make a decision. For me, volitional faith.
 - o Choosing to believe the Bible gave me the best evidence for believing in the Bible!
- What believing in the Bible did for me.
 - o 1) Life change happened. When you trust and give authority to the Bible you will change.
 - Also, Holy Spirit baptism was about the same time for me. Don't discount that.
 - Life change from **Matthew 5:43-44** for example.
 - I don't get to like some people and dislike others...I don't have that right. You?
 - o 2) Led me to interpret the Bible coherently.
 - If you believe that there is a profound truth from God to be found, you won't settle for less.
 - Back to **Matthew 5:44**. Don't settle for cognitive dissonance, find the beautiful thing.
 - Leads to **Romans 12:17-21**. This is part of how we overcome! What if all did this?
 - Funny example: **1 Thess 5:17**.
 - o Other Scriptures that had a big impact on me: **Matthew 6:33, 1 Cor 12:15-16, Matthew 7:21-23.**
- Problem: Many Christians don't seem to see the Bible in the right way.
 - o Bible as trivia or pointless religious observance vs learning the ways of God. **Romans 2:13**
 - Bible is not God, nor the way to God, but the map of the way to God! **James 1:22, 25**
 - o Super detailed intellectual/theological doctrines but miss the basic points. **1 Cor 4:6**
 - How smart do you have to be to follow Jesus? **Matthew 11:25-26**
 - World is complicated and shallow, God is simple and profound.
- I implore you, trust the Bible and live it out! Only then does it really make sense and bring freedom.
- Let's do **Hebrews 4:14-16**.
- What do you need? Salvation? Freedom? Breakthrough? Peace? Let's seek that now!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!