

Does the Bible Still Matter

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INTRODUCTION

- Discussion: What stood out or surprised you about the video?
- More Bibles purchased each year than any other book.
- Historically, the Bible has hugely impacted societies of the world.
- Look at these commonly used phrases all coming from the Bible:
 - Apple of his eye" -- Deuteronomy 32:10, Zechariah 2:8
 - "Blind leading the blind" -- Matthew 15:14, Luke 6:39
 - "Eat, drink, and be merry" -- Ecclesiastes 8:15 KJV
 - "Eye for an eye" -- Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20; Matthew 5:38
 - "The writing is on the wall" -- Daniel 5:5
 - "My brother's keeper" -- Genesis 4:9
 - "Out of the mouths of babes" -- Psalm 8:2
 - "Signs of the times" -- Matthew 16:3
 - "Strait and narrow" -- Matthew 7:14
 - "Sweat of your brow" -- Genesis 3:19 KJV
 - "The blind leading the blind" -- Matthew 15:14, Luke 6:39
 - "Thorn in the flesh" -- 2 Corinthians 12:7
- Even though we have the "separation of church and state" the marks of God and the Bible are all through our government.
- Our patriotic songs, money, pledge of allegiance.
- In the U.S. Constitution its hard to not find the influence of the Bible
- In a survey: 65% agreed w/ "The Bible answers all or most of basic life questions.", but 2% of those said they rarely or never read the Bible.
- The surveys also show that if you ask Christians the same questions you only get slightly greater numbers.
- What's the problem?
- Could it be that we as a society have advanced so far intellectually and spiritually that we don't need to read the Bible?
- Put another way, "Do we already have a basic understanding of the Bible and its teachings, so we don't need to read it?"

COMPLICATION

- If those questions are answered 'yes', why is immorality so high.?
- What has happened to a society that goes against the Bible so much?
- Society says,
 - Its ok to lie on your resume to get a good job
 - Its ok to cheat on a test.
 - Its ok to get an abortion if you didn't plan for the pregnancy.
 - This week former Mayer Guilliani & abortion stance
 - Its ok to have sexual relations with someone other than spouse, even with someone of the same sex.

- Its ok to steal if you really *need* something.
- What has happened is that we have a society with its only moral compass being the personal choices of a person.
- There is no such thing as truth or “truth is in the eye of the beholder”
- World View – explain what it is.
 - The lens’ through which you look at the world
 - It affects how you make decisions and your choices
 - It is formed by your beliefs and your background
- In History, much of society has had a Biblical worldview even if they weren’t Christians.
- The Bible was the standard and the basis of morality.
- I’m proposing that is not the case as much today.
- The Bible is not a trusted source and its truth is not adhered to or even acknowledged as truth.
- So does the Bible really matter?

PERIPETEIA

- Our passage this morning speaks to this matter.
- First of all look at what Peter writes in v. 16-18
- He makes himself into a valid witness.
- He claims first hand knowledge of Jesus and His work.
- He heard the voice of God giving credence to the man Jesus.
- He speaks as one with authority having witnessed the works of Jesus.
- He speaks from what he **knows**.
- Key verse: 2 Peter 1:19
- Peter having witnessed God’s work and God’s son says, you better pay attention to the words of the prophets.
- He goes on in v. 20-21.
- The words of the prophets were the actual words of God.
- As Christians we believe in God through faith.
- Intellectually, we hear the words of witnesses and can believe what they say is true if we believe they are credible.
- Tradition has it that Peter died a martyr’s death. He died for his beliefs.
- For me that makes him a credible witness.
- When he says “you would do well to pay attention” ...to the scripture I accept that.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “**All Scripture is God-breathed (inspired) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**”
- God is truth. God’s Word is truth.
- Christians typically believe that the only absolute truth in the world comes God and God speaks to us through His word.

DENOUEMENT

- If scripture is useful for “equipping” us for every good work, then does the Bible still matter?

- The Bible certainly does still matter.
- And since it still matters we need to do a better job of reading it and applying it to our lives.
- We need a Biblical worldview.
- The Bible needs to shape the way we live.
- It needs to shape the decisions we make.
- It needs to be the determining factor of our moral compass.
- It needs to take priority over our own manmade beliefs.