

This I Believe (1)
The Bible is the Inspired, Complete Word of God

Introduction: One of the sure things is that men are constantly changing.

- A. God has given us a source of truth that will never change. (**Jude 3**)
 - 1. This body of truth call “the faith” was believed and obeyed by Christians both then and now. (**Acts 6:7; Gal 1:23, 3:23**)
 - 2. This concept of absolute truth is soundly rejected by the world.
- B. Even though God has given us this standard, it is up to us to establish it in our own hearts.
 - 1. Paul wrote concerning those things he believed so that others might believe as well. (**2 Cor 4:13-14**)
 - 2. This truth can be believed because sufficient evidence is found in the word of God for any man, anywhere and at any time can examine this evidence and believe it too. (**Rom 10:17; Acts 2:39**)
 - 3. The sad truth is that many Christians have sat through numerous church services and have never made faith their own. (**2 Cor 13:5**)
 - 4. Every lesson in this series contains truths from God’s word that are under attack by Christians who claim it is “traditional” and “like the Pharisees”.
 - 5. The goal of these lessons is to examine the basis of what we believe so that we might have fellowship with God and always continue in it. (**1 John 1:1-4**)
- C. Our study will focus on the attitude and teaching of Jesus toward God’s written word.

I. Jesus and the Old Testament

- A. Jesus taught that the Old Testament was the very words of God!
 - 1. He claimed the writers were moved by the Holy Spirit. (**Mark 12:36**)
 - 2. He claimed the word of God is without contradiction. (**John 10:34-35**)
- B. Jesus taught that God expected those under this covenant to fully apply everything God spoke in their lives. (**Matt 4:4,7,10**)
 - 1. Jesus did not hesitate to rebuke those who failed to apply the scriptures. (**Mk 12:24-27**)
 - 2. Jesus taught that all who will be right with God will have a respect for God’s word. (**John 8:47**)
 - 3. Jesus never taught that men were to ignore God’s word for that which is new or for what men considered as “felt needs”.

II. Jesus and the New Testament

- A. Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit would give a complete revelation. (**John 16:12-13**)
 - 1. Jesus promised that all things would be remembered with perfection. (**Jn 14:26**)
 - 2. This was accomplished in the first century. (**Eph 3:3-5; Jude 3**)
- B. Jesus expected His followers to follow everything that He delivered to the apostles through the Holy Spirit. (**Matt 28:18-20**)
 - 1. The apostles gave great emphasis to this as well. (**Acts 20:26-29; 1 Cor 11:23-26**)

2. Jesus never warned against those who called men back to the Bible.
“A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.” - Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)

C. Jesus did warn of false teachers who would cease to follow the whole council of God. (**Matt 7:15**)

“Any single verse of the Bible, taken in isolation, may actually be dangerous to your spiritual health. Every part of it must be read in relation to the whole message.”

1. The apostles warned Christians as well. (**1 John 4:1,6**)
2. Who should we be concerned about, those who call for a “positive Christianity” and decry those who are “patternist” or those who call for a “book, chapter and verse” for all that we do?
3. Why do some roll their eyes whenever someone warns of false teachers?

III. Issues which Test our Faith

A. It is not enough to confess faith in God’s word. Each generation will face issues which test our profession to be genuine or so much talk.

B. Do we need authority for all that we do? (**Col 3:17**)

1. Some say that the Bible is a collection of “love letters” with no purpose towards “external limitations”.
2. If the Bible is complete, what should we do?

C. Does it matter concerning the “externals” of our worship? (**John 4:23-24**)

1. Does it matter if we observe the Lord’s supper or not? (**Acts 20:7**)
2. Is the use of instrumental music in worship a sin? (**Rev 22:18-19**)
3. Is the only limitation in our worship “that which the brethren will accept”?

D. Should we limit the work of the church to that which the Lord has instructed?

1. What does it mean for Jesus to be “head of the body”? (**Eph 1:22-23**)
2. Did Jesus instruct local churches to take up money in the assembly for kitchens, plays and camps? (**1 Cor 16:1-2**)

E. Should we have fellowship with churches and teachers who refuse to stand upon these things? (**2 John 9-11**)

1. Should we be “open and tolerant” be actively supporting and attending churches where men who reject these things worship and teach? (**2 Cor 11:3-4**)
2. Does not the place we attend speak louder about what we believe than what we say? (**Jas 2:16**)

Conclusion: Will you stand upon this perfect revelation of God?

A. God never has given us His word for us just to talk about. (**Luke 6:46**)

B. God does not want us to trust in names but to trust in Him! (**Matt 3:8-10**)

1. Those who only want to find a church called “church of Christ” with no further investigation have missed what it means to be a Christian!

“Do you know a book that you are willing to put under your head for a pillow when you are dying? Very well; that is the book you want to study when you are living. There is only one such book in the world.”