



1: Why Should We Trust the WORD of GOD?

Why do we teach from the Bible every week?
Who's to say the Bible is any more authoritative than any other writings?
Why believe the words in this book to be the WORDs of GOD?
Today we discover the best answer to these questions.

beourguest

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register your visit using this CR Code **Connect Card** ➔

teachingnotes

Follow today's teaching notes on your digital device (**wi-fi: Worship Center Guest**).

1. **Open phone camera** & zoom in on the **QR code pic to the right**. **OPEN** our VISUAL NOTES.
2. Access PDF notes to teachings from: **bit.ly/PDFNotes**
3. Watch **FB Live** & see **teaching notes** on our FB page: **facebook.com/fellowshipofmadison**
4. Check out our webpage: **FOM.life** (including over 555 teachings - audio & video).

CONNECT CARD



VISUAL NOTES

What IS "The Word of God"?

When most of us hear "The Word of God" we immediately think of the Bible, but the biblical language "The Word of God" referred to:

- **the message God gave directly to people** (like His prophets), who then spoke/wrote on His behalf (Gen 15:1; 1 Sam 3:1, 15:10; 2 Sam 7:4; 1 Kgs 6:11, 18:1; Is 28:14; Ez 6:1-3; Rev 1:9).
- The Word of God is also **the language used by John to refer** not to the written word but **the LIVING WORD of God - Jesus** (Jn 1:1-4; Rev 19:13).
- The **word of God/Lord is referring to the good news about Jesus** (Lk 11:28; Acts 4:31; Acts 6:7; Acts 11:1; Acts 12:24; Acts 13:49; Acts 15:35; Acts 16:32; 1 Thes 2:13; Rev 20:4).
- Today we have the great privilege of having all that ancient information compiled in a collection we call "**The Bible**" = meaning "Book". **This BOOK is a LIBRARY** telling us about WHO God is and WHAT God says. From that perspective, we *can* say that what is in the Bible *is* **the WORD of GOD**.

The next 5 weeks:

1. **Why Should We Trust the Word of God?** (that's today)
2. **Is what we have NOW, what they had THEN?** Has the Bible been corrupted or changed OR is it trustworthy?
3. **What are the Recognized Writings & Trustworthy Translations?**
4. **How do we Read it Right?**
5. **How should we RESPOND to the WORD of GOD?** Will we obey OR turn away from God's Word?

Why Should We Trust the Word of God?

Atheists say we shouldn't. Atheists deny God exists. (**A** = no + **Theos** = God)

☛ **Dr. Peter Boghossian** wrote *A Manual for Creating Atheists*. He wants an army of at least 10,000 people to engage 5-15 people a day to 'inoculate' them, talk them out of their faith & superstition, and into "reason."

Agnostics say we can't know that God has spoken. (**A** = no + **GNOSIS** = Knowledge)

Jesus taught that we can really know WHO God is and WHAT God says.

❓ **Why do YOU believe the words in the Bible to be the WORDs of GOD?**

BIG TRUTH: Jesus taught His disciples to trust the WORD of GOD

...which are KNOWN through the Scriptures.

How the Disciples of Jesus Understood Scriptures

2 Peter 1:20-21 (CSB) Above all, you know this: No **prophecy of Scripture** comes from the prophet's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, **men spoke from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The disciples of Jesus believed that the words written in **Scripture** were words **from God** given **by the Holy Spirit**. They believed that God spoke **TO people THROUGH people**.

SOMEONE Greater Reveals the WORD OF GOD to Us!

Hebrews 1:1-2a (CSB) Long ago **God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets** at different times and in different ways. In these last days, **He has spoken to us by his Son**.

Before the gospel writer ever mentions the name of Jesus, he writes these words:

The LIVING Word of God

John 1:1-4 (CSB) In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through **Him**, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. **In him was life**, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:14, 18 (CSB) **The Word became flesh** and dwelt among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...**No one has ever seen God**. The one and only **Son**, who is **Himself God** and is at the Father's side—**He has revealed Him**.

✗ This is not just another prophet speaking the Words of God. This is not God speaking into a mind, through a dream-like vision, or by an immaterial voice from the air.

✓ Jesus is the living **WORD OF GOD**, speaking the very Words of God to His creation!

🔍 **Jesus refers to the WORD OF GOD as recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures over 50 times.**

BIG TRUTH: Jesus taught His disciples to trust the WORD of GOD

Mark 12:35-37 (CSB) While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he asked, "How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? **David himself says by the Holy Spirit: The Lord declared to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'** [Ps 110:1] David himself calls him 'Lord.' How, then, can he be his son?" And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

John 7:38 (CSB) The one who believes in Me, as **the Scripture** has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him. [Ex 17:1-6; Ps 78:15-16; 105:40-41; Pr 18:4; Is 12:3; Ezk 47:1-11; Zec 14:8; Rv 22:1-2]

Jesus Speaking Enemies

John 5:38-40 (CSB) You don't have **His Word** residing in you, because you don't believe the One He sent. You pore over **the Scriptures** because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet **they** testify about me. But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life.

Mark 12:10 (CSB) Haven't you read this **Scripture**: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. [Ps 118:22]

Mark 12:24-27 (CSB) Jesus spoke to them, "Isn't this the reason why you're mistaken: you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised—haven't you read **in the book of Moses**, in the passage about the burning bush, how God said to him: *I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob* [Ex 3:6,15-16]? He is not the God of the dead but of the living. You are badly mistaken."

Jesus Answers Questions

Matthew 19:4-6 (CSB) "Haven't you **read**," he replied, "that he who created them in the beginning *made them male and female* [Gn 1:27; 5:2], and he also said, *'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'*? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate." [Gn 2:24]

Jesus To Disciples Shortly Before His Arrest

Luke 18:31-33 (CSB) Then He took the Twelve aside and told them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. Everything that is **written through the prophets** about the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and He will be mocked, insulted, spit on; and after they flog Him, they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day.” [Ps 22; Is 50:6; 53; Dan 9:26; Zec 13:7]

Matthew 26:23-24 (CSB) He replied, “The one who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl—he will betray Me. The Son of Man will go just **as it is written about Him**, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born.”

Matthew 26:31 (CSB) Then Jesus said to them, “Tonight all of you will fall away because of me, for **it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.** [Zec 13:7]

Mark 14:48-49 (CSB) Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a criminal, to capture me? Every day I was among you, teaching in the temple, and you didn’t arrest me. But **the Scriptures must be fulfilled.**”

Jesus To Disciples After His Resurrection

Luke 24:27 (CSB) Then beginning with **Moses** and all **the Prophets**, He interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

John 2:19-22 (CSB) Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.” Therefore the Jews said, “This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking about the temple of His Body. So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and **they believed the Scripture** and the statement Jesus had made.

BIG TRUTH: Jesus taught His disciples to trust the WORD of GOD

Jesus Responds to Temptation

Matthew 4:3-4 (CSB) Then the tempter approached Him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” He answered, “**It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**” [Dt 8:3]

FEET TO FAITH

1. **READ IT** Take the 10-minute challenge: Read 1 chapter of Scripture each day. (choose 1 gospel)
2. **WRITE IT** Write down *INSIGHTS* you gain and the *QUESTIONS* you have.
3. **SHARE IT** *SHARE* what you *READ* with another *CHRISTIAN*.
4. **LIVE IT** *OBEY* what *GOD SAYS*.

WRITE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? You might need to look back in your notes to help explain your answer.
2. Based on what we studied today, what was Jesus' view of the Scriptures?
3. **Read John 1:1-4, 14-18.** Based on the author's claims about *WHO* Jesus is, why should *JESUS'* view of the Scriptures influence *OUR* view of the Scriptures?
4. According to **2 Peter 1:20-21** & **Mark 12:35-37**, how did men receive the Words of GOD?
5. Scan back through the **12 passages in your notes** where Jesus refers to the Scriptures. Share which passages are most powerful to you and WHY.
6. **Read Matthew 4:3-4.** How does it encourage you to know that Jesus felt what we felt (e.g. hunger, pain), yet was able to live without sin. When being tempted by the devil, what was Jesus' consistent response and what can we learn from that?
7. Where do you plan on reading from Scripture this week? Who are you going to share your insights & questions with (e.g. spouse and/or specific friend)?
8. If you were asked, "Why do you believe the Bible?" How would you respond? (Consider our BIG TRUTH from today.)
9. What other questions has this teaching or discussion prompted for us to talk about?
10. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.**