

THE BIBLE

# REDEEMER INSTITUTE

# WHY?

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## The Joy!

- Victory!
- “Let me run!”
- Beautiful feet
- Let us run with endurance the race being set before us – Hebrews 12.1

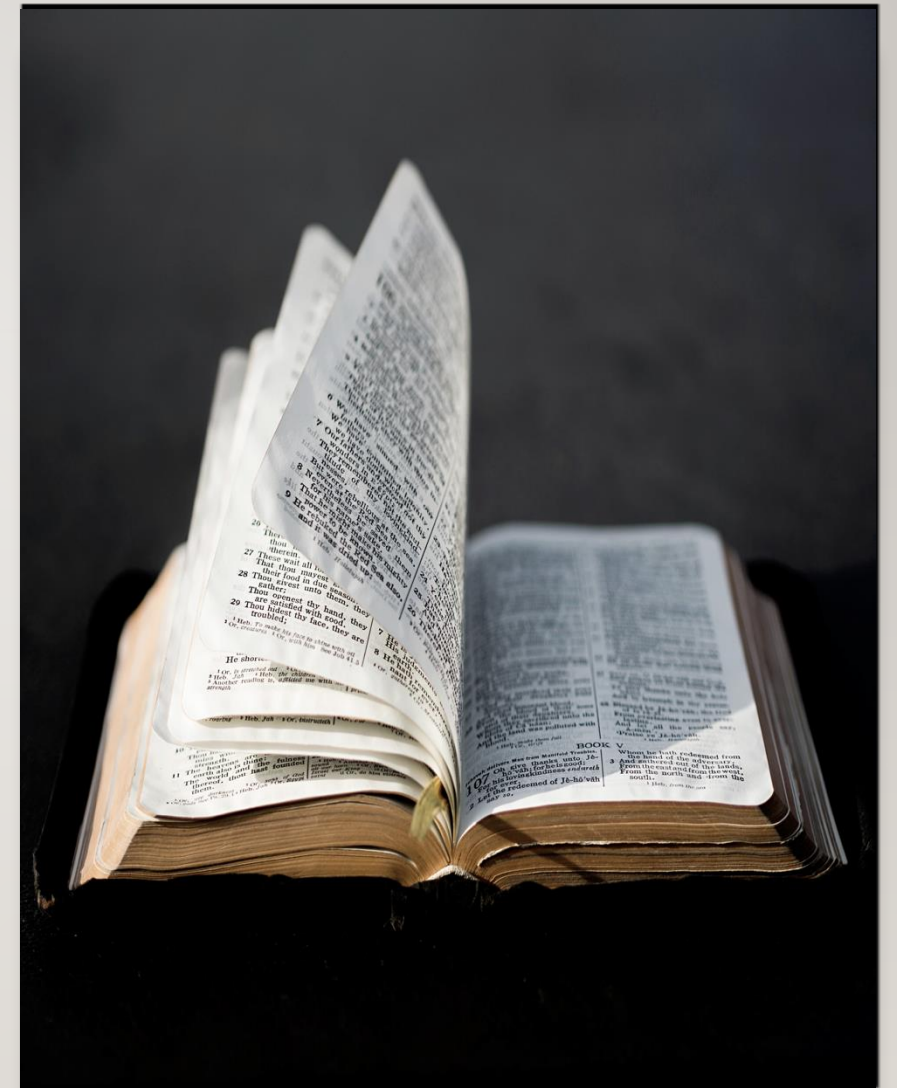


# WHY?

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## The Call – “Shut up and listen!”

- Genesis 3.15
- Matthew 16.18
- Matthew 28.18-20
- John 10.16
- Acts 1.8   Colossians 1.5-6   I Corinthians 2.2-5

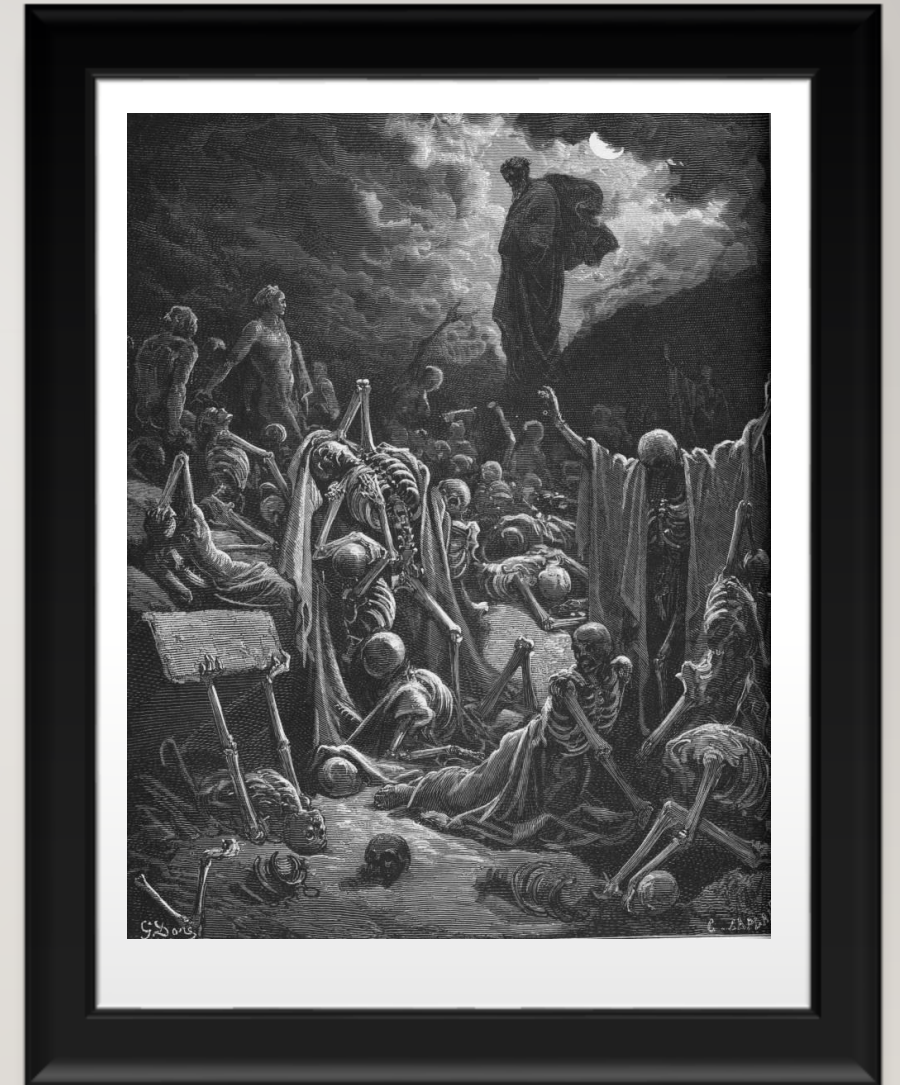


# WHY?

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## A 25 Year Vision

- To reach and renew as many people as possible with the Gospel in Waco.
- Singular Vision.
- History.



# WHY?

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- **The Moses Mission – or the next 15 years.**
- To reach and renew 800 lives every Sunday with the Divine Energies of the Gospel.
- This means...



# CLASS CONTENT

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**01**     The Bible

**02**     Law and Gospel

**03**     How to Read the Bible

**04**     Gospel Life

**05**     The Church

# CLASS CONTENT

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- |           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| <b>06</b> | Shepherding Hearts   |
| <b>07</b> | Leadership           |
| <b>08</b> | Covenant Theology    |
| <b>09</b> | Selective Doctrine   |
| <b>10</b> | Communicating Christ |

# READING LIST

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## Must Read

The Gospel Arc – Jeff Hatton

Westminster Confession of Faith

The Moses Mission – Redeemer's Next 15 Years.

## To Make the A Team...

Sinner Saint – Luke KjolHaug

Law & Gospel – Mockingbird

Prodigal God – Timothy Keller

Extravagant Grace – Barbara Duguid

Words of Life – Timothy Ward

Intro to Covenant Theology – Michael Horton

Center Church – Timothy Keller

Extreme Ownership – Jocko Willinck

Commentary on Galatians – Martin Luther

## To Ride the Bench...

Read nothing – not even your Bible.



WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

# PSALM 29

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The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

Verse 3

The God of glory thunders,

The LORD, over many waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful.

Verse 4-5

The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars.

The LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

# PSALM 29

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The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

Verse 6

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness.

The LORD shakes the wilderness...

# DO YOU SEE IT?

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**1** GOD'S SPEAKING.

*is*

**2** HIS ACTING.

*is*

**3** HIS PRESENCE.

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THE BIBLE IS WHERE THE  
PERSONAL ACTIVE  
PRESENCE OF GOD  
SHOWS UP.

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## ROMANS 10.14, 17

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him...

Option 1: **of whom** they have never heard?  
(need to hear information)

Option 2: **whom** they have never heard?  
(need to hear a person)

So, faith comes from **hearing** (information or a person),  
and **hearing** through the word of Christ.

## ROMANS 10.8

But what does it say?

earlier in verse 5 we're told...

law says one thing.

faith says something else.

But what does **it** (faith) say?

‘The Word is near you...’

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THE BIBLE IS WHERE JESUS  
IS NEAR (SHOWS UP).

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## GALATIANS 3.1

O foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell upon you?

It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly (vividly) portrayed as crucified.

Question: Wait, were the Galatian Christians in Jerusalem that day? Were **they** there?

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THE BIBLE IS WHERE JESUS  
& HIS SALVATION SHOWS  
UP.

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PSALM 29  
ROMANS 10.13-17  
GALATIANS 3.1  
ROMANS 10.8

**What is the Bible?**

**Where God shows up.**

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THEREFORE, EXPERIENCE  
GOD WITH THE BIBLE!

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**“GOD WILL NOT GIVE  
YOU HIS SPIRIT APART  
FROM THE EXTERNAL  
WORD.”**

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LUTHER.

SPIRIT AND  
WORD GO  
TOGETHER.  
NOT SPIRIT  
AND...

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|          |                                             |                                                   |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | Church Tradition                            | (Roman Catholic view)                             |
| <b>2</b> | Your heart                                  | (Anabaptist view)                                 |
| <b>3</b> | Special anointed individuals                | (Charismatic view)                                |
| <b>4</b> | Spiritual disciplines                       | (Mystical view)                                   |
| <b>5</b> | Biblical principles<br>Activate God somehow | (Evangelical view)<br>(The Pelagian in all of us) |

# WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR GOD SHOWING UP IN THE BIBLE?

- Personally.
- Reading and communicating the Bible.
- Christian life.
- Community.
- Church.
- Mission of the church.
- Other.

# WHAT ARE SOME THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF GOD SHOWING UP IN THE BIBLE?

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1

## **Authority.**

(the living & active words of the Author of all things)

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2

## **Sufficiency.**

(the only source of special revelation from God Himself for salvation & life or faith & practice)

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3

## **Inspiration.**

(100% Divine Words through the agency of 100% human words)

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4

## **Inerrancy.**

(the product of inspiration, that is, the perfection of the original uncopied manuscripts)

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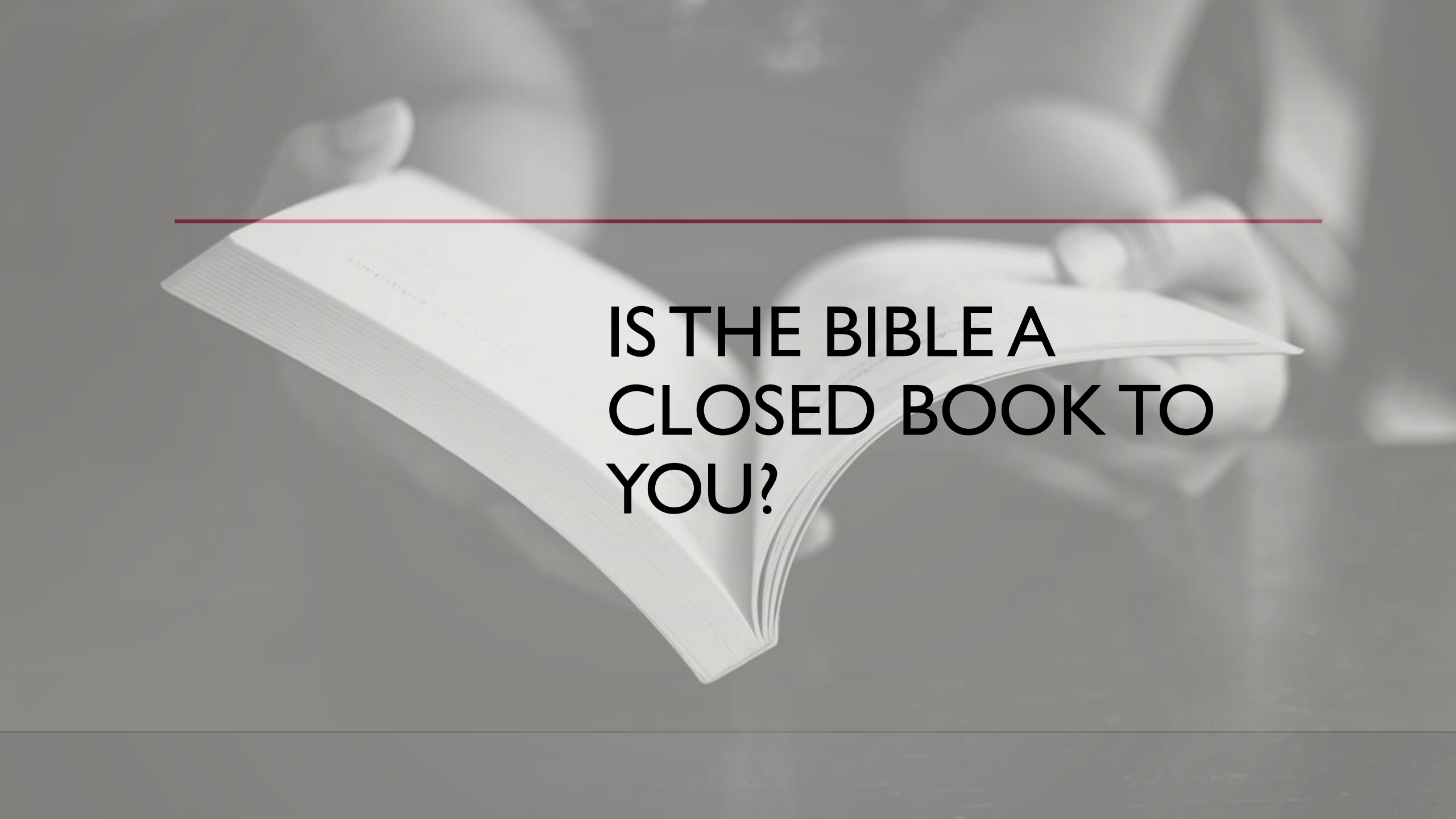


**Next week:**

**Law & Gospel**

# THE BIBLE IS...

1. Overwhelming – “How do you even begin? What do I do?”
2. Confusing – “So many differing views, interpretations, traditions, theological systems.”
3. Disappointing – “Not what I thought. Church is even worse.”
4. Exhausting – “Be better! Do better! Feel more! Activate God more! Here’s how...”
5. Dead – “I must interpret, ignite, and apply the Bible.”



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**IS THE BIBLE A  
CLOSED BOOK TO  
YOU?**

# LUTHER

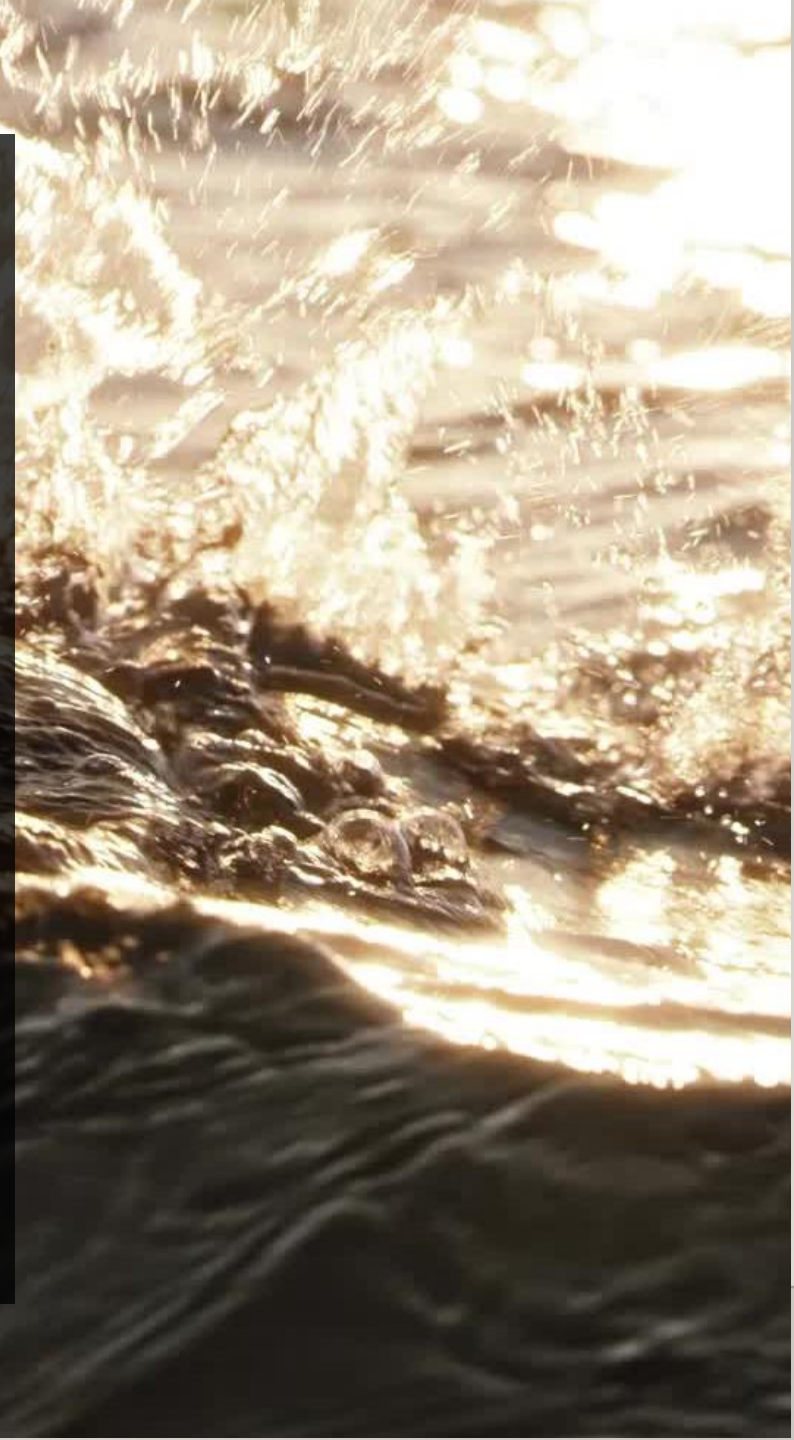
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“If God does not open and explain Holy Writ (the Bible), no one can understand it; it will remain a closed book, enveloped in darkness.”

“Confusion of law and gospel shuts the Bible to you...it is a closed book.”

“To mix law and gospel not only clouds the knowledge of grace, it cuts out Christ altogether.”

“Virtually the whole of Scripture and the understanding of theology depends upon a true understanding of the law and the gospel.”



# HOW DOES THE BIBLE OPEN TO YOU?

1. The Holy Spirit opens the Bible to you.
2. By teaching you Law and Gospel.
3. Learn Law and Gospel – become fluent in your understanding (clarity to the mind) and experience (realness to the heart & life).
4. “After I discovered the difference, that the law is one thing and the gospel is another, then I broke through”  
– Luther.

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“IGNORANCE OF THE DISTINCTION  
BETWEEN LAW AND GOSPEL IS ONE OF  
THE PRINCIPLE SOURCES OF THE ABUSES  
WHICH CORRUPTED AND STILL CORRUPT  
CHRISTIANITY.”

– THEODORE BEZA 1500S

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**LEARN LAW AND  
GOSPEL.**

# WHAT IS LAW AND GOSPEL?

1. **The two words of God** running thru the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
2. **The two living and active words of God** running thru the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.
3. **The two words & works of God (same thing)** running thru the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.
4. **The two “Speech-Acts” of God (God doing what He says)** running thru the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

WHAT IS LAW & GOSPEL?

WHAT GOD IS *DOING* THRU THE  
BIBLE.

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“Let there be light!”

And there was.

“David, you are the man!”

“I am,” says David.

“Lazarus, come out!”

He does.



# QUICK APPLICATION FOR BIBLE READING

“God speaks and acts so that we are interpreted by Scripture. It is less true that we read the Bible; it is truer that the Bible reads us” - Jonathan Linebaugh.

1. God's Word is not dead. It is living and active. It is God's personal active presence.
2. It is where God shows up speaking and doing law & gospel to you.
3. It does not need your interpretive action to understand it, revive it, apply it.

THE BIBLE IS NO LONGER  
A CLOSED BOOK TO YOU.

A person's hands are holding an open book, with the pages slightly curved. The background is dark and out of focus. A vertical white line is positioned to the left of the text.

WHAT IS LAW &  
GOSPEL?

THE ADVANCED  
CLASS.

## SOME SAY...

“The law detects, grace alone conquers, sin.” – Augustine 300s-400s

“The usefulness of the law lies in convicting (diagnosing, showing, revealing) man of his infirmity and moving him to call upon the remedy of grace in Christ Jesus.” – Augustine 300s-400s

“Moses had no other intention than to invite all men to go straight to Christ.” – John Calvin 1500s

“Run John run the law commands, but gives me neither feet nor hands. Far better news the gospel brings, it bids me fly and gives me wings.”  
– John Bunyan 1600s

“The law says, ‘Do, and life you’ll win.’ But grace says, ‘Live, for all is done.’ The former cannot ease my grief, the latter yields me full relief.”  
– Ralf Erskine 1700s

“As the sharp needle prepares the way for thread, so the piercing law makes a way for the bright silver thread of grace.” – Spurgeon 1800s

“A low view of the law always brings legalism in religion; a high view of the law makes a seeker after grace.” – J Gresham Machen early 1900s

## SOME SAY...

“The law shows us (diagnosis, reveals) our sin; the gospel gives us the remedy (cure) for it. The law shows our condemnation; the gospel gives our redemption. The law is a word of fire; the gospel is a word of peace. The law is a word of despair; the gospel is a word of comfort. The law is unrest; the gospel is rest. The law says pay your debt; the gospel says Christ paid it. The law says you are a sinner, despair you shall be damned. The gospel says your sins are forgiven, be comforted you shall be saved. The law says where is your righteousness? The gospel says Christ is your righteousness.” – John Foxe 1500s

A rectangular sign with a black frame and a white background is mounted on a light gray wall. The sign contains the text "CLEAR TO THE MIND:" on the top line and "THE LAW" on the bottom line, both in a bold, dark gray, sans-serif font. Below the wall, a wooden floor with vertical planks is visible.

CLEAR TO THE MIND:  
THE LAW

# THE LAW DEMANDS...

1. **A perfect human being or image-bearer** – not try harder, self-improvement, do your best, surrender all, sincerity, commitment, feel more, obey more, activate God more...“Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt 5.48). Period.
2. **Holiness to commune with God & live in His kingdom** – “Be holy, for I am Holy” (31 times in the Bible). We must be holy in our person & works.
3. **Righteousness to attain justification & life** – “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law and do them” (Gal 3. 10). This is why we have a justification-size hole in our soul. This is why the ultimate doom in life is the condemnation of our very being.
4. **Obedience to connect with God & His blessings** – to enter the kingdom; to inherit eternal life; to attain glory.

# THE LAW IS GOD...

1. **Revealing to you** the spiritual fabric of the universe, reality, the way of human well-being & flourishing, the good-beautiful-and true, the way of blessing & life. This work is called “general revelation”.
2. **Showing you** how creation works (natural law) and how you work (the law written on our hearts).
3. **Restraining your sin & its effects.** Personally, relationally, societally, culturally, governmentally, etc. This work is called the “civil use of the law”.
4. **Addressing, interpreting, diagnosing, revealing, showing, convicting, burying, imprisoning, killing, accusing, condemning your sin & its effects.** “If it had not been for the law, I would not have known the Sin” (Rom 7.7). Obviously, Paul knew about sin (information), but did not know himself as a sinner (transformation). This work is called the “spiritual use of the law”.
5. **Holding up a “mirror” to you** – we finally see ourselves rightly and all that we naturally suppress.
6. **Sealing your corpse in its tomb** – “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” (Rom 7.24).
7. **Addressing the split-self in the Christian (Rom 7).** That is the old-self, the flesh, the dead-self, the sinful nature, or original sin and its effects still present in the Christian. Why? To drive you Jesus, that is, to produce a life of repentance, humility, and deeper dependence upon Jesus and his salvation...alone.

A hand is shown from the wrist up, holding a bright, glowing yellow-orange sphere. The background is a soft-focus bokeh of warm, golden light circles. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular box.

# CLEAR TO THE MIND: THE GOSPEL

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# THE GOSPEL *FREELY GIVES...*

1. Jesus and His comprehensive salvation.
2. The Victory!
3. The King and His Kingdom.
4. God and His Blessings.
5. The mercy and grace of God in Christ.
6. The Great Exchange – Jesus for you. He becomes your sin, condemnation, and death. You become His righteousness, justification, and life.
7. The Great Substitute – Jesus for you. His substitutionary incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and present reign for you. That is propitiation, justification, reconciliation, redemption, adoption, regeneration/new life, sanctification, every spiritual blessing, the kingdom of God, glorification, eternal life, new heavens and new earth... That is soteriology, eschatology, ecclesiology, everything!
8. The Holy Spirit and the new life (creation) He brings.
9. Faith, repentance, love, worship, hope, obedience, good works, mission, new life, the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
10. What the Law demands.

# THE GOSPEL IS GOD...

1. Loving you.
2. Blessing you.
3. Gracing you.
4. Finding you.
5. Justifying, sanctifying, and eventually glorifying you.
6. Reaching, rescuing, saving, redeeming, reconciling, pardoning, forgiving, freeing, resurrecting, renewing, regenerating, re-creating you.
7. Comforting, helping, healing, hearing, seeing, knowing you.
8. Strengthening, empowering, energizing, activating, moving, to will and to act you.
9. Illuminating, enlightening, counseling, teaching, training you.
10. Present with you. With you. For you.
11. Filling you with the Holy Spirit.

The background of the slide is a dark, textured surface covered with numerous question marks. Some question marks are in a light beige color, while others are in a dark grey color, creating a sense of depth and repetition. A large, bright white question mark is positioned on the left side, partially overlapping a dark rectangular box.

QUESTIONS?

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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open book. The book is open to two pages of text, and the person's fingers are visible holding the edges. The background is dark and out of focus.

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**OBJECTIONS:  
YAH, A WHOLE CLASS OF THEM**

## OBJECTION #1: THIS IS HARD TO DO.

1. **A “Third Word” from God is harder.** That is mixing (confusing) Law and Gospel together to form a whole new “Third Word” from God is spiritual insanity!
2. **The Law turns into “soft law” an activating power.** Endless instructions, principles, exhortations, commands, good advice
3. **The Gospel turns into “soft law”.** If you read, hear, study, interpret, experience, theologize, teach, preach, small group, communicate, parent, apply any text in the Bible in light of **what God freely**

# OBJECTION #1: THIS IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

1. **God is doing something** in, with, by, thru His Word – the Bible. Not just conveying information, but getting things done.
2. **God is doing two words** (law and gospel) in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.
3. **God's two words** (law and gospel) run thru the Bible's highly selective history (of divine events) and its thick interpretation of that history (divine messages) through a multiplicity of literary forms.
4. **Sometimes God's two words** sit on the surface of the text ("You shall have no other gods before me!" or "For God so loved the world that he gave..."). **Other times God's two words** move in the deeper depths of the text...
5. If you read, hear, study, interpret, experience, theologize, teach, preach, small group, communicate, apply any text in the Bible in light of **what God demands of you**, then you are **reading law** in that text.
6. If you read, hear, study, interpret, experience, theologize, teach, preach, small group, communicate, parent, apply any text in the Bible in light of **what God freely gives you in Christ**, then you are **reading gospel** in that text.

DOES THE LAW  
HAVE  
SANCTIFYING  
POWER?

DOES THE LAW  
HAVE ONE DROP  
OF DIVINE LIFE &  
SANCTIFYING  
POWER IN IT?

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life – Jesus (John 6.63).

The letter (the law) kills, but the Spirit (the gospel) gives life – 2Cor 3.6.

The ministry of death (the law) vs. the ministry of the Spirit (the gospel) – 2Cor 3.7.

The ministry of condemnation (the law) vs. the ministry of righteousness (the gospel) – 2Cor 3.9.

The old covenant (the law) “veils the heart” vs. the new covenant (the gospel) “removes the veil” and gives freedom, the Spirit, vision of the Lord, transformation – 2Cor 3.12-18.

For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law – Gal. 3.21.

WHY THEN THE  
LAW FOR THE  
CHRISTIAN?

WHY DO WE  
NEED THE LAW?

**Why then the law?**

Gal 3.19

added because of sin.

imprison everything under sin.

hold sinners captive.

**Tell me, you who desire to be under the  
law, do you not listen to the law?**

Gal 4.21

two sons – slave & free

two ages/natures - flesh (law) & S(s)pirit (promise)

two covenants – law and promise (grace. gospel)

two Jerusalem's – below (slaves) and above (free)

WE THINK THE  
LAW IS FREEDOM  
B/C WE THINK WE  
CAN FULFILL IT.

Sermon on the Mount – all but one verse is law. And it is the key: “I did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it.”  
If you don’t get this ...the Sermon on the Mount is closed to you.

Misuse the Law – use the law unlawfully.

The Law does not carry one drop of Divine Life & Resurrecting Power in it.

# THE BIBLE IS WHERE...

- God is present - near you.
- God is active - working in-on-with-for you.
- God's speaking IS his working IS his presence.
- God is personally & actively present.
- GOD SPEAKS YOU BACK TO LIFE - AGAIN.

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**“GOD WILL NOT GIVE  
YOU HIS SPIRIT APART  
FROM THE EXTERNAL  
WORD.”**

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LUTHER.

# WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

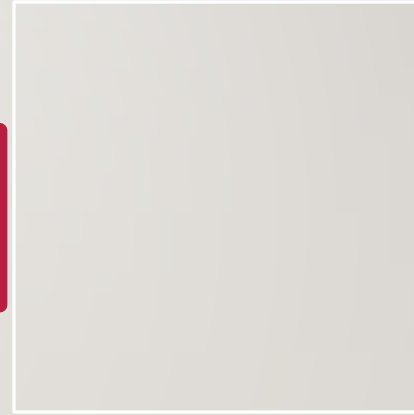
## IT IS WHERE GOD SHOWS.

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- 1 Authority.**  
(the ultimate source of authority, that is, the very living & active words (speech-acts) of the Author of all things and His Power over all things)
- 2 Sufficiency.**  
(the only source of special revelation from God Himself for salvation & life or faith & practice)
- 3 Inspiration.**  
(100% Divine Words through the agency of 100% human words)
- 4 Inerrancy.**  
(the product of inspiration, that is, the perfection of the original uncopied manuscripts)



**Next Topic:**



**How to Read the Bible**