

Reflecting on “How We Get Our Bible”

Doctrinal Series on The Scriptures

Sunday, April 14, 2024

1) **Read Hebrews 4:12.** Based on this verse, how would you respond to someone who believes that the Bible is too old to be relevant to our lives today? How has the Word of God proven itself to be living and active in your life?

2) In his book, *Taking God at His Word*, Kevin DeYoung claims that, “We need the Bible if we are to be competent Christians.” Do you agree with this statement? According to **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, what is the Bible profitable for? Which of these areas seems most beneficial in your life?

3) John Wesley identified four authorities for life:

Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience. Which authority is treated as supreme in each scenario below:

- Barbara is an avid baseball fan, and she gladly pays hundreds of dollars for Orioles season tickets every year. However, she thinks it's ridiculous that she still has to pay for parking. Three years ago, she toured the executive offices at Camden Yards and stole a parking pass from an employee's desk. She knows she's technically breaking one of the Ten Commandments, but figures if God hadn't wanted her to have the pass, she would have been caught by now. *Which of the four authorities seems to be supreme in Barbara's life?*
- Patrick recently joined a church where same-sex relationships are affirmed and promoted. As recently as last summer, Patrick understood verses like Romans 1:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 to apply to us today. Now he isn't so sure. Besides, he

really enjoys the friendly atmosphere at his new church. *What type of authority seems to be supreme in Patrick's life?*

- Jordan just moved into a new area and started attending a church of a different denomination than he grew up in. Last week he was shocked to hear the preacher say that people should pray only in Jesus' name because, according to 1 Timothy 2:5, "there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Jordan can't seem to find any Bible verses that support praying to or for dead people, but since he's been doing this for his entire life, he figures it can't do any harm. *What type of authority seems to be supreme in Jordan's life?*
- Thomas is a dedicated student of the Bible. Ask anyone, and they'll tell you he really knows his stuff. "Of course," they may add, "you won't have to ask us; Thomas will probably tell you about his

Bible knowledge on his own.” Despite his rich Bible knowledge and sound theology, Thomas often comes across as arrogant and offensive. When confronted, Thomas responds, “What does it matter? If I’m right, I’m not wrong.” *What seems to be the final authority in Thomas’ life?*

4) **Read 2 Timothy 2:15.** While we should be encouraged that understanding the Bible doesn’t require a seminary degree, Scripture clearly assumes that followers of Jesus will be students of God’s Word. The following questions are admittedly somewhat personal, but also pivotal in the growth and maturation of our church body:

- Describe your current habit for personal Bible study. What do you read? How often do you read? How do you handle passages that don’t immediately make sense to you?

- What is one way you could improve your Bible study habit this week?

Prayer. One sure way for us to grow in our knowledge of and love for God's Word is to pray for each other. Please conclude your Life Group today with prayer. (You may wish to use Colossians 3:16-17 as a guide.)