

# ***HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY—PATRICK WALTON***

*A Series About Our Values—9.27.2020*

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## ***Week 1 | “Our Commitment To The Bible Pt. 1”***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Years ago, as a non-believer, working at the Portland International Airport, I met this very educated gentleman who had a P.H.D in the Bible. As we talked, I shared with him that I also grew up in a Christian home. He quickly said to me, “Oh, I’m not a Christian. I don’t believe that the Bible is truthful, trustworthy, or authoritative.”
- B. Now, even though I wasn’t following Jesus at the time, I was baffled by this. Like how could you have spent all that time in the Bible, and walk away believing that it wasn’t truthful? As I became a Jesus follower about a year later, I thought about this man often. Both praying for him, but also realizing that without faith, it’s impossible to please God.
- C. Reading the Bible, knowing what the Bible says, isn’t sufficient, you have to put faith in the God who wrote the Bible in order for the Bible to work, and make sense in your life, in order for the Bible to take root in your life, and produce the kind of fruit that the Bible speaks of.
- D. Here at Legacy Church, we have seven values (*a commitment to the Bible, pursuing Jesus, becoming a diverse family, growing as disciples of Jesus, serving, living a dependent life on Jesus, and reaching those that are far from Christ*) but all these values flow out of our commitment to the Bible, our first value as a ministry. It’s our belief that without the Bible front and center, we don’t have a ministry.
- E. Today were going to look at the Bible under attack, what are the scriptures, do the scriptures contain any errors, and 5 truths every Jesus follower must believe about the Bible.

### **II. THE BIBLE UNDER ATTACK**

- A. It’s clear, the Bible has fallen on hard times; not just among society, but also among the Church. There’s a battle raging around us, as the Word of God is no longer driving society. The Church now finds herself standing among a post-Christian culture, a culture that doesn’t share the Churches values.
- B. This battle is a battle for truth, of which the Bible stands front and center, and it’s a battle the Church must not flinch at. It’s a battle that the Church can’t back down from.
- C. Steve Lawson in his book *The Moment of Truth* rightly says, “*When absolute truth departs, everything is up for grabs. And tragically, modern man now has his feet firmly planted in midair.*”
- D. The reason we aren’t to back down from this fight is because an attack against truth of the Bible, is actually an attack against God, an attack against the nature of God, an attack on the character of God. As Augustine rightly said, “*When the Bible speaks, God speaks. And to abandon the Bible, is to abandon God.*”
- E. For much of the evangelical community, it seems clear that their goal is get synced up with culture, become relevant, fit in, be on the right side of popular opinion, but in order to do this, they have to diminish the presence of the Word of God, because God’s Word will never be in sync with culture.

1. What is true today, will be true tomorrow. What is right today, will never be wrong tomorrow. Right is always right, and wrong is always wrong. The truth of God’s Word, Truth itself, Trinitarian truth is eternally fixed (**Ps. 119:89; Isa. 40:8**).
  
- F. This fight for truth doesn’t have its origin in modern politics, it doesn’t have its origin in Marxism, it doesn’t start with fake news, it started all the way back in Eden, with the first question ever asked in the Bible; DID GOD REALLY SAY THAT? IS THAT REALLY WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT? DO YOU THINK YOU HEARD HIM CORRECTLY WHEN HE SPOKE TO YOU?
  1. **Genesis 3:1-5** “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the women, Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden...Then the serpent said to the women, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
  
- G. It was through this question asked by Satan, that the seeds of doubt, deception were sown into the human race, and this has been the fight ever since. Will man trust himself and Satan, or will man trust God, will man trust God’s Words? This was Satan’s attempt to create a world where the rejection of truth would run wild.
  
- H. Beloved, we can’t ignore the Word of God, rearrange the Word of God, minimize the Word of God, or dismiss the Word of God. Instead, as followers of Jesus, who have taken His yoke of teaching’s and practice, we have to treasure the Word of God, just as we treasure the God who gave it to us.

### III. WHAT ARE THE SCRIPTURES?

- A. Scriptures are God speaking His truth to us in human words. The Bible was written in 3 languages, Hebrew, Greek and some Aramaic, over about 1,500 years, by over 40 people, on three continents (Asia (Modern day Israel), Africa and Europe).
  
- B. The Bible has a total of 66 books, divided up into two testaments, the Old Testament (39 books), and the New Testament (27 books). Unlike any other book, the Bible has two authors, but it wasn’t co-authored. This is the Bible’s self-proclamation that it was divinely inspired, meaning it wasn’t the process, or the person that is inspired, but the very words that were written down.
  1. **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (God breathed), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (Verbal, Plenary, Inspiration).
  
- C. The human authors of the Bible include *peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, a doctor and scholars*. The books of the Bible *cover history, sermons, letters, songs and love letters*. There are *geographical surveys, architectural specifications, travel diaries, population statistics, family trees, inventories and numerous legal documents*.
  
- D. The chapters of the Bible were added in 1240 A.D. by Cardinal Hugo of St. Cher and the verses of the Bible were added by a man named Robert Stephanus giving us 1,189 chapters and 31,173 verses. The chapter and verse breaks within the Bible are not what we call inspired by God, but were added to give us an address to help us refer to certain parts much like the address on our homes.

#### IV. DO THE SCRIPTURES CONTAIN ANY ERRORS?

- A. As followers of Jesus we believe that all scripture is truth. Whether statements of fact about *the earth, heaven, humans, God, moral commandments, or divine promise*. We believe this because the Bible is connected to God, who is truth and does not lie. The Bible is perfect including no errors.
- B. The Bible's accuracy is not only shown in the original work, but also with the copies that have been made. In the Gospel of Luke, he correctly identifies by name, title and job of such historical individuals as Anna, Ananias, Herod Agrippa 1<sup>st</sup>, Herod Agrippa 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Egyptian prophet, Felix and Festus. Even in archaeological discovery the truth of the Bible is strengthened, but never taken away from.
- C. Many parts of the Bible that people reject, Jesus Himself preached and endorsed as being legitimate. These include; the creation of the Earth (**Luke 11:51**), the literalness of Genesis 1 and 2 (**Matthew 19:4-5**), Cain and the murder of Able (**Matthew 23:25**), Noah and the flood (**Matthew 24:37-39**), Abraham (**John 8:56**), Daniel the prophet (**Matthew 24:15**), Sodom and Gomorrah (**Matthew 10:15**), Lot (**Luke 17:28-32**), the manna (**John 6**), the wilderness serpent (**John 3:14**), Moses as lawgiver (**Matthew 8:4**) and Jonah in the belly of a fish (**Matthew 12:40**).
- D. Here's a few things the Bible has to say about itself;
1. Given by God's inspiration (**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16; 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:19-21**) They are the very words of God (**1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 2:13**) All we need to know God (**Luke 16:29, 31**) A perfect guide for life (**Prov. 6:23**) They are pure (**Psalms 12:6, 119:140**) Trustworthy (**Proverbs 30:5-6**) Perfect (**Psalms 19:7**) Effective (**Isaiah 55:11**) Powerful (**Hebrews 4:12**) Not to be taken from (**Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32**) Belong to everyone (**Romans 16:25-27**) The standard by which all teaching is to be tested (**Acts 17:11**) To be obeyed (**James 1:22**)
  2. It also says that, "It's sweet like honey//A lamp to guide our path//Food for our soul//A fire that purifies//A hammer that breaks//A sword//A seed for salvation that is planted within us//Milk that nourishes us// (**Psalms 19:10;119:105; Jeremiah 15:16, 23:29; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:29; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:2**)
- E. The Bible declares that its words are perfect, but what isn't perfect are the people who read it. Our error doesn't come from the Bible, but from us who read it. This is why we must approach the Bible with humility, fear and trembling.

#### V. 5 TRUTH CLAIMS ABOUT THE BIBLE

- A. (1) The Bible Is Objective Truth—People may agree or disagree with the Bible, but it's fixed, eternally in heaven, meaning there isn't one person who can change what God has said.
1. The Old Testament alone has over 3,800 phrases that state, "thus says the Lord" and around 300 of the same statements in the New Testament.
  2. Because it's God's Word, it's timeless, which means no matter what changes around us, no matter how far the boundary lines move, no matter how far the Church in America drifts, God's Word doesn't change.
- B. (2) The Bible Is Rational Truth—The Bible is logical, rational and it's to be understood by normal reasoning. There are no lies, no unsound principles, or errors contained in the Word of God.

1. The Bible has no myths, no inconsistencies, no fantasies or absurdities. The Bible contains the history of real people, in real places during a real time.
  2. This is what can be frustrating about our charismatic culture, were often looking for an audible voice, a subjective experience, a conference feeling, while so few of us carry our Bibles, read our Bibles, and live from our Bibles. Were like looking for something more, as if we haven't already been given it.
- C. (3) The Bible Is Authoritative Truth—This means that as followers of Jesus we must submit to the Word of God. God's Word is the final authority in the Church—no pastor, no prophet, no elder or pope sits over the Word of God, but all sit, humbled underneath the Word of God.
1. Our challenge is that we live in a culture where most people don't want to submit, even within the Church.
- D. (4) The Bible Is Incompatible Truth—This means that the Bible is the only truth that speaks authoritatively, and it's incompatible with any other contradicting ideas.
1. Tolerance towards people of differing opinions is a good thing, but tolerance towards false teaching is sin (**Revelation 2:18-29**).
- E. (5) The Bible Is Consistent Truth—The Bible doesn't require correction, editing, or innovation. Revivals throughout history, not good meetings, but revivals that sweep lands happen when God's Word is taught, lived out, submitted to, and obeyed.
1. Dr. Steve Lawson says of Luther, *“As Luther found himself in the turmoil of the Reformation, people came to him and asked him how all this had happened. How was Europe now teetering and tottering? How was the Pope now beginning to shake? How had a match been lit that set the world ablaze? Luther responded, I simply taught, practiced, preached, and wrote God's word. Otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept... the Word so greatly weakened the papacy, that never a prince and never an emperor inflicted such damage upon it. I did nothing, the Word of God did it all.”*
  2. The day of Pentecost wasn't a wild, outta control meeting that led to revival, it was a supernatural event, based upon the scriptures of **Joel 2**, that Peter then stood up and faithfully preached from 2 books of the bible, and 3 different chapters to define what God was doing, and when he was done, 3,000 were cut to the heart.
- F. If the Church is going to be salt and light among a sinful culture, then we must cultivate a high view of the Bible. We have to be a people who preach and proclaim the Word of God as it is, not as we wish it to be. This is God's standard for life and godliness.
- G. In **Exodus 3:1-10**, Moses has a powerful encounter with God, through a burning bush! And encounter holds life changing keys for those that will be transformed by it;
1. (1) You have to turn aside. (2) You have to look at the mundane, the simple and at the same time supernatural (it's a bush, on fire, but it's not consumed—It's natural and supernatural) (3) When you turn aside, when you look, when you study, you will find God (4) Then you are forced to answer God's request, will you obey, will you take off your shoes, will you submit to the word of God, will you place yourself underneath it?