



Bible Q&A

Greentown Baptist Church
Wednesday, August 27, 2025

1. Is it anti Bible to not support the actions of the Israeli government while still appreciating, respecting, and understanding God's plan for the Jews?

- In regard to Israel, both as a people and a nation (Gen. 32:28; Rom. 10:1), the Bible tells us to:
 - Bless them - Gen. 12:2-3; Num. 24:1-9; Acts 3:25-26.
 - _____ for them - Ps. 122:6; Rom. 10:1; Dan. 9:4-20.
 - Comfort and support them - Is. 40:1-2; Rom. 15:27.
 - **Never** try to supplant them - Rom. 11:1-2, 16-26; Jer. 31:31-38; Amos 9:14-15; Rev. 3:9.
- Certainly, we are not to support ANY sinful actions of ANY government. However, there are _____ circumstances surrounding Israel and the supernatural battle that has been going on since the beginning. It is important for us to follow what the Bible says and let _____ the rest - 1 Sam. 15:3. *Judgments against Israel*: Deut. 28:15, 64; Judges 2:14; Jer. 25:8-9. *Restoration of Israel/occupying the promised land*: Deut. 30; Jer. 30-31; Amos 8:14-15; Eze. 36; Zech. 8:7-8.

2. Thoughts on churches doing for-profit activities/business? Since non-profit is a tax designation not a biblical mandate. For example, churches operate coffee shops, produce music, make movies, etc. What if a church chose to operate exclusively as a for profit entity? What might that look like?

- Profit - *The gain or benefit obtained after costs, effort, or investment are considered. Good that comes from something.*
- The world's definition: *The amount of _____ left after subtracting expenses from income.*
- "Profit" (and all tenses) shows up in the KJV _____ times. At least 8 of those times does it specifically refer to money or material goods and each of those times in a negative context (Pro. 10:2, 11:4; Matt. 15:5, 16:26; Mark 7:11, 8:36; 1 Cor. 13:3; Gal. 1:14).
- The church, its leaders, members and ministry, are not about earthly profit, but rather spiritual - Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 5:2; Titus 1:7; 2 Peter 2:3; Acts 20:33-35; Matt. 21:12-13; 1 Tim. 6:5-12; Titus 1:10-11; 1 Sam. 8:3; 1 Tim. 3:3, 8; Eph. 4:11-16; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 1:21; John 17:4; Rev. 4:11; Rom. 15; 1 Cor. 12.
- Practically speaking, God uses tithes and offerings ("profits") for the profit of the ministry - 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7-12; Phil. 4:18; 2 Cor. 11:9; Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-35; Pro. 19:17; 1 Thess. 5:14; Eph. 4:28.
- While things like fundraisers, coffee, and other such activities can certainly help with the mission, if it's only about earthly profit, that is _____ profitable to God. Making music, movies, etc. to provide a means to carry out God's mission would likely be more like a parachurch organization than a church...

3. What role do parachurch organizations play today? Some people are completely against them while others see their usefulness. What's a biblical stance on them and being part of one?

- A parachurch is a “Christian religious organization” that operates independently of a local church or denomination but still seeks to fulfill aspects of the Christian mission. Some examples would include: Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Compassion International, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Sherwood Pictures.
- While not directly mentioned in the Bible, there are biblical principles that should be applied:
 - God has ordained His **church** as the primary means for implementing His plan today - 1 Tim. 3:15; Matt. 16:18; Acts 11, 13, 14:27, 15:4-22; 1 Cor. 4:17; Eph. 3:10, 5:23-25; Col. 4:16; Rev. 2-3.
 - A parachurch organization cannot replace nor compete with the local church and should have the same accountability to the word of God. They should always complement the church and mission and ideally be under the “umbrella” of a local church (Project One8).
- When there is no local church affiliation/authority, false doctrine, wrong “profit” motives, and other worldly influences can creep in and hinder the mission.

4. AI is on the rise for good or bad. It's being incorporated into every aspect of our lives. It's being used at work, school, stores, everywhere. What guidance should Christians take when it comes to utilizing AI in their walk with the Lord? Specifically, in studying out the Bible and seeking answers to questions. Is there a stark difference between AI and commentaries or other books written for study?

The Good

- Creating images, logos, charts, and other graphics.
- Performing various administrative tasks like composing emails, transcribing meetings, language translation, and even creating presentations.
- Compiling verses on a certain topic and even putting a study together.
- Research, history, definitions, deeper details.
- Some churches use AI for social media posting, newsletters, and other marketing materials.

The Bad

- It is not always accurate and can be biased based on the user and previous inputs.
- Loss of _____.
- Manipulation of information - deep-fakes: images, audio, statistics, etc.
- Slowly making its way into the church: writing _____, curriculum, and even counseling.
- Diminished thinking, skills, and human imagination.

The Ugly

- Loss of genuine, human interactions generated by feelings and instincts are being replaced by following an AI generated “script” - John 13:34-35
- Creating unrealistic expectations in relationships (problem free, no conflict, self-centeredness) - Eph. 4:32; Rom. 12:10; 1 Peter 5:5.
 - AI _____!?
- Loss of human control. God gave mankind dominion over the earth - Gen. 1:26-28.
- “Iron mixed with clay” - Dan. 2:43.

Remember...

- AI can be a useful tool in Bible study. But like with any tool, it is _____ a replacement for the word of God, the local church, discipleship, and biblical preaching and teaching - Is. 28:10-13; Acts 8:12, 15:35, 28:31; 1 Cor. 1:21; Titus 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:2, 15; Eph. 4; 1 Tim. 3:15.
- A commentary or book does not have the power to “think” or change its opinion based on your input, habits, or perspective on things.
- AI does not have a heart nor a soul. It can never feel or express God’s love, grace, or mercy like a human can. It does not have the Holy Spirit dwelling within like a believer does.
- Most things require human intervention to be misused...AI does not.
- Rule #1 - _____! ALL things must be measured by God’s word as the final authority - Pro. 30:5; Luke 11:28; Acts 6:7, 12:24, 19:20; Rom. 10:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 2:14!