

## The Battle for the Bible

In recent weeks, we have looked at how trustworthy the Bible is in its truth, inspiration, and the effect it has on our lives. Rebellious people who will not consider these great aspects of the Bible will not be content with leaving It alone. They feel they must destroy the Bible whether it be with hypocritical politeness or with disdain and hatred. Consider the things we have to struggle with in society.

The battle over media propaganda is certainly very big, but not the biggest. Some might think that the biggest battle is for congress and the presidency. Some might think that the biggest battles are against television or pornography. Some might worry about the threat of rampant crime, the abortion industry, elites and unrest in our colleges, schools, or unions. We certainly are under pressure from the movement to normalize perversion and mutilation of children.

Although we *are* fighting against the forces on all these fronts, the biggest battle is not any of them. While we cannot afford to lose ground in any of these areas, the biggest battle does not make headlines in the newspapers. It is not debated in congress. It doesn't scroll across the bottom of your TV screen. It is the battle for the Bible. The battle for the Bible is the biggest battle because it lies at the foundation for all the other battles. It lies at the foundation for all that we hold precious. It lies at the foundation of democracy, family, morality, health — and we could go on and on. Without it, we would descend to a regulative state where government would determine what is best for you and will do whatever it can to control your life...and fail.

We can see the truth has been turned upside down and how we need the firm truth of the Bible. We can rationally justify that every word of the Bible is inspired by God so that we can trust *all* the Bible. Once we have done that, we can trust the life changing message of the Bible to save and sanctify us. The world tries to get rid of the Bible so it create its own morality and then fails at salvation.

There are a number of ways to do this: some are obvious, others are more subtle and deceitful.

# 1. Remove the Word of God -

Jer 36:1-2 And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, *that* this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

2 Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.

The king didn't like the message from God so he became an editor.

Jer 36:20-23 And they went in to the king into the court, but they laid up the roll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the ears of the king.

21 So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king.

22 Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and *there was a fire* on the hearth burning before him.

23 And it came to pass, *that* when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast *it* into the fire that *was* on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that *was* on the hearth.

In the end, the king edited the Word of God right out of existence.

Communism has done the same thing. It didn't like the Biblical message of salvation because it interfered with their message of how they would create the ideal society. Communism depended

on a new philosophical science that suggests that society will inevitably evolve as the oppressed overcome the oppressor. It doesn't recognize the sinfulness of mankind that when the oppressed overcome the oppressor, they themselves become the oppressor. Communism doesn't like depending on the Biblical message of transformation of the individual. In fact, the only way the United States has been able to stand free depends on the Christian faith. So, what communism does is get rid of the competition, the Bible. If there is any religion at all, it has to become subservient to the state. It takes out a penknife until all the roll is consumed.

Communism is only the latest example in history that has done this. Keeping the Bible out of the hands of the people was practiced by corrupt churches and monarchs alike.

## 2. Discourage the understanding of the Word -

The next way people have tried to destroy the Bible has been by undermining It, trying to discourage people from reading and understanding It. I have heard people say that if you read the Bible it will confuse you or make you crazy. They complain about how hard it is, how anachronistic it is, how irrelevant to today it is. Such people have no idea how little they actually know. Between science, government, literature, psychology, industry, philosophy, and on and on, the Bible surpasses the wisdom of this world.

There is one thing you need to truly appreciate the wisdom of the Bible: The Holy Spirit.

John 16:12-14 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

The Holy Spirit is given the moment you receive Christ and are born again. When lost people resist the Holy Ghost, they become ineligible to truly understand the Bible – they just think they do.

I have also heard it said that only the clergy can interpret the Bible for you. With the Holy Spirit in you, you become a minister of God. Peter points out how each person becomes part of royal priesthood.

1Pet 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

### 3. Twisting the Word of God -

If you do get to read and study the Bible, beware of those who try to twist the Word of God.

2Pet 3:14-16 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to

be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Besides cult figures, there are plenty of actors, politicians, social activists and others who will try to twist the Bible to promote their agenda.

One publisher who wanted to promote the reading of the Bible, printed individual books of the Bible with introductions by various cultural luminaries described as "scholars, writers, religious figures, and highly influential people."

Readers are treated to the rock star Bono's spiritual musings on the book of Psalms, in which he claims that David performing music for King Saul is similar in spirit to the Spice Girls performing for Prince Charles. "David was a star," Bono assures us, "the Elvis of the bible." Writer Kathleen Norris informs us that the book of Revelation is "best understood as prison literature" and that it must be reclaimed from ill-informed "fundamentalists."...

Nor does the reader of "Revelations" learn much about the contributors' own faiths. By contrast, Antonio Monda's "Do You Believe?: Conversations on God and Religion" -- which came out in November 2007 -- tackles the question of belief directly. ...Mr. Monda's choice of interview subjects -- 18 literary and cultural celebrities, including Jane Fonda, Richard Ford, Spike Lee, Arthur Schlesinger Jr. and Martin Scorsese -- is telling. Here we discover the motivation behind Ms. Fonda's decision to convert to Christianity: "Christ was the first feminist," she tells Mr. Monda, "and because of that I've learned from his teaching to

call myself a Christian feminist." Ms. Fonda informs us that the early Christians were "seekers rather than believers" and that her faith is "not a matter of traditions and dogmas but, rather, a spiritual experience."

—Excerpts from *Heaven Help Us: Stars Expound on Scripture*. Wall Street Journal, February 1, 2008; Page W11)

#### 4. Re-translate the Word in a way that changes the Bible -

Be careful of which Word you use. If you might swear on a stack of Bibles, don't swear on a stack of modern versions.

- The staggering number of modern versions confuses people as they talk about which word fits their philosophy, occupation, or gender instead of seeing what the Word of God actually says.
- The modern versions changed words often to something so sterilized just to be able to copyright and control their translation.
- The Bible has been "re-translated" over 100 times with obvious efforts to make it conform to a particular philosophy. Nobody goes to such efforts with other literature of the world.
- The modern versions use corrupted Greek texts to change the Word of God and deny even the deity of Christ.

1Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God** was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

NASB By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: **He** who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the

Spirit, Seen by angels,  
Proclaimed among the nations,  
Believed on in the world, Taken  
up in glory.

NIV Beyond all question, the  
mystery from which true  
godliness springs is great: **He**  
appeared in the flesh, was  
vindicated by the Spirit, was seen  
by angels, was preached among  
the nations, was believed on in  
the world, was taken up in glory.

ESV Great indeed, we confess, is  
the mystery of godliness: **He** was  
manifested in the flesh,  
vindicated by the Spirit, seen by  
angels, proclaimed among the  
nations, believed on in the world,  
taken up in glory.

MESSAGE This Christian life is  
a great mystery, far exceeding  
our understanding, but some  
things are clear enough: **He**  
appeared in a human body, was  
proved right by the invisible  
Spirit, was seen by angels. He  
was proclaimed among all kinds  
of peoples, believed in all over  
the world, taken up into heavenly  
glory.

Typically, when someone wonders  
why we use the King James Version, I  
will take out a stack of Bibles and ask  
them to turn to Acts 8:37 which states  
that you must believe before you can be  
baptized. In many versions, it is not  
there. Not just the verse, but even the  
number *for* the verse is missing. It is  
about then that they start to realize there  
is a problem, and Acts 8:37 is not the  
only verse. This battle has gone on so  
long that many churches, like sheep, are  
led astray.

## 5. Merely ignored by Christians -

The most common problem is that it  
is merely ignored by Christians. The  
Bible sits on a shelf. It not only is not  
read, It is not studied. People might

attend church every once in a while, but for what purpose? Is it for training or entertaining?

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

As we saw at the beginning of this sermon, the firm truth of God's inspired Word is what is used to bring us salvation. And as long as you can get the true Word of God, know that there are a lot of forces that are exercised to get you to doubt the Bible. In our responsibility as Christians we need to search God's Word. We need to read the Bible for understanding and application which will keep us busy for a lifetime. It will not only keep us busy, but will bless us for a life of the most meaningful service we could ever have. It ultimately we bring us eternal rewards.

This is the main message of the Bible, all over the Old *and* New Testament. Without understanding God's plan of salvation, the rest of the Bible cannot be *truly understood*.

Rom 10:8-10 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

After that, the Bible will be there to guide and instruct you.

2Tim 3:16-17 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and



*is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

1. Remove the Word of God - Jer 36:1-2,20-23
2. Discourage the understanding of the Word - John 16:12-14, 1Pet 2:9, 1John 2:27
3. Twisting the Word of God - 2Pet 3:14-16
4. Re-translate the Word in a way that changes the Bible - 1Tim 3:16
5. Merely ignored by Christians - Hos 4:6, Rom 10:8-10, 2Tim 3:16-17