

# Why We Need the Bible

*The Word of God, Pt. 1*

*2 Peter 1:16-21*

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# I. PRAYER

- i. God would you reveal to all of us just how much we need your Word.

# II. INTRODUCTION

## a. So, I have two toddlers.

- i. And what I find to be interesting is how there is a point in the life of a toddler, where they become aware of and afraid of the dark.
  - As infants and young toddlers, they don't know that they should be afraid of the dark.
  - But at some point, they realize that the dark is not a place they want to be.
    1. Why is that?
- ii. Now, as adults, we wouldn't say that we are afraid of the dark, right?
  - Of course, I am not afraid of the dark!
- iii. But, have you ever been caving?
  - Not talking about walking around Luray Caverns.
    1. I'm talking about legitimate caving.
  - When I was in college, my school had a program, major, in Adventure education.
    1. Where you get your degree in stuff like climbing, hiking, rafting, and caving.
  - Well, a bunch of my buddies were in that program and one night they were all going caving and they asked me to come along.
    1. So, I agreed, but in my mind, we're all going to walk around something like Luray Caverns.
    2. So, we get in the car and drive about two hours away into central Pennsylvania.



3. And we come to this massive field with a big oak tree in the middle of it.
  4. We park our cars next to the oak tree and my buddies start pulling all of this gear and equipment out of their trunks.
  5. Stuff like jump suits, helmets, lamps, and repelling equipment.
- And I'm like: Hey fellas, where's the cave? All I see is a huge open field.
    1. They all point to the oak tree.
    2. So, I walk over to the oak tree and next to it is a hole in the ground about this big.
  - And we attach to the oak tree and repel down this hole about 50-75 feet and as we lowered ourselves in this hole, it opened up into this huge cavern.
    1. We unhook our harnesses, leave the rope, (hope no one unties it), and start exploring. Now, my buddies have been there before and had a map...so that was comforting.
    2. But we would go through these long tunnels called squeeze holes that were just big enough to shimmy your body through on your stomach.
    3. And we would climb through these holes into these huge caverns. It was incredible.
  - So, after a while, we stopped in one cavern to rest and we decided to all turn our lamps off.
    1. Now that is perfect darkness.
    2. Absolutely no light at all.
  - It's the kind of darkness that feels constricting and begins to make your mind wander.



1. Wander to things like: If our lights don't turn back on, there is no way I will survive. We are so deep into this cave, there is no way I could make my way back.
  2. And there is no way to communicate with the outside world...we're in the belly of the earth...it's a lonely darkness.
- iv. So, let me ask you, are you afraid of that kind of darkness?
- Because I was terrified.
  - And listen, it was so dark, I all of the sudden understood my absolute need for light.

**b. This is an illustration for what it is like to be a human being in a fallen world.**

- i. Doesn't it seem like, despite all of the ways in which we have advanced in our knowledge about the world, that we still live our lives in the dark?
  - Why are we here? What is our purpose? How do I achieve happiness in this life? How do I avoid pain? Why do I feel anxious? Why do bad things happen? Why do some people hate others so passionately?
- ii. If you want to make some good money, write a book that offers an answer to one of these major questions of life...you'll get book sales.
  - As humanity, we all have certain questions that we will pay money for answers to.
    1. What is the exact diet I need to get the body I want?
    2. What supplements do I need to take to have energy?



3. How do I stop this habit or that habit?
  4. What do I need to do to ensure I don't suffer from cancer?
  5. How do I invest my money perfectly to get the optimum return?
- This is why Google is so powerful!
    1. They know every single question that we have in life!
    2. Because we google everything!
  - But as human beings, we have an innate need for clear answers to our biggest questions...yet we live in a world where the answers to these questions are beyond our grasp...
  - It's almost like we are trying to navigate a deep underground cave in the dark.
- iii. **See, if my friends and I ended up in that cave without a working light, we would still have some senses to try and make sense of our surroundings.**
- We would have our sense of hearing that would help us locate each other and measure distance.
  - We would have our sense of touch to feel the walls of the cave, find tunnels, and try to navigate around.
  - We would have the ability to reason and use logic in order to create systems of communication and navigation.
- iv. **But without light and the ability to use our sense of sight and see a map, it would have been impossible to escape that cave.**
- The maze of tunnels and squeeze holes was just too complex.



1. It would have been impossible to escape, even if we had light but no access to a map!
  - Although in the midst of the darkness we could use some of our God-given senses to collect information about our surroundings, true clarity would be impossible with light.
- v. And in this life that we live today, God has given us the ability to observe the world around us, practice science, use our senses, collect information, and find some answers to some questions and that is good and right...
- ...but left only to these senses and methods...we just don't have the information we need to get answers to the biggest questions.

**c. It may be the one thing that all of humanity refuses to admit...the fact that we do not have the ability, left to ourselves, to know the answers to these questions without help.**

- And maybe we don't want to admit that because we fear that we would then lose the motivation for continued research, science, and discovery.
  1. If we do not have the ability to have a full understanding of our existence without help, then what is the point of science and discovery?
  2. If it is impossible to escape the cave without light, why use our other senses to even try?



- Or maybe we don't want to admit that we need help because we don't want to give up the "power" to decide what is true and good and what is not true and good.
  1. Whoever has the ability to decide what is true and good ultimately has supreme authority and that is not something we are willing to give up.
  2. Even though we don't have all the tools we need to truly determine what is actually true and good.

### **III. SERIES PLUG**

**a. This morning, we are going to start a new sermon series - that will take us through most of the summer - that will be an in-depth study on the doctrine of the Word of God.**

- i. Because God, our creator and the one who holds answers to all of our questions, has revealed Himself and the answers to our biggest questions, in and through His written Word, which we believe to be the 66 books of the Bible.
  - He has provided us a light in the darkness.
- ii. And we are going to spend several weeks talking about what the Bible is and why it is necessary for us to have it because I believe that the written Word of God is...
  - (1) The greatest need that all of humanity has...
    1. ...yet at the same time..
  - (2) It is our greatest fear.



1. Because we don't want to give anything else the authority to tell us what is true and good. We want to keep that right for ourselves.
- iii. It's like being in that cave and trying to feel our way around in the dark.
- Our greatest need is light.
  - But to accept the light would also mean to allow the light to expose the true way...and where we have gone wrong.
  - So, we prefer being in control and continuing to navigate the cave without light.

## **IV. GENESIS 1-3**

### **a. We actually see humanity's need for God's Word and the consequences of rejecting his Word in the first chapters of the Bible.**

#### **i. Read Genesis 1:26-30**

- After v.27 – So, I am trying to make a case today that as human beings, we need God's Word.
  1. Well, what we see here is that our very origin, the means of our Creation, was God's Word. We wouldn't be here without the Word of God.
- V.28-31 – Okay, here is God's Word revealing to the first man and woman their purpose. How they will be fulfilled. Where their joy is found. Why they even exist.
  1. We were created to reflect the image and glory of God in how we rule over and care for the rest of creation.



ii. Read **Genesis 2:15-17**

- God continues to speak to Adam and Eve giving them more instruction.
  1. Here, God creates a boundary for mankind.
  2. Do not eat of this particular tree.
  3. And there is a consequence to breaking that boundary...which is death.
  4. A foreign concept to the first man and woman at this point.

iii. So, at this point, God has revealed Himself to Adam and Eve, he has given them his Word, and they have clarity on their purpose, their existence, and where their joy is found.

iv. Read **Genesis 2:25-3:7**

- 2:25 - Notice, as Adam and Eve lived under the direction of God's Word, they were without shame.
- 3:2 - The first words out of the serpent mouth are to question the Word of God.
- 3:3 - Notice the distortion of God's Word.
- 3:4 - Now the serpent is not questioning the Word of God, he is directly challenging it.
- 3:5 - What God says is not true and good. And if you go over there and eat from that tree, you will claim that authority in your life.
  1. You will not have to rely on God, your Creator, to tell you what is true and good. You can decide what you believe is true and good.



- 3:7 – And what happens the moment that Adam and Eve transition from accepting God’s Word as life-giving truth to rejecting God’s Word.
  1. Shame. Fear. Hiding. Covering up.
  2. It was like the lights went out.
  3. They no longer could see clearly.
  4. They now had all kinds of questions about their existence.
  5. They had rejected their greatest need.
- v. **The Word of God**
  - (1) The greatest need that all of humanity has...
    1. ...yet at the same time...
  - (2) It is our greatest fear.
    1. Because we don’t want to give anything else the authority to tell us what is true and good.
    2. We want to keep that right for ourselves.

## **V. THE GOAL**

### **a. Here is what I want us to leave here convinced of:**

- i. That as God’s creation, we do not determine what is true and good. We need special revelation from God to know what is true and good because God controls what is true and good.
  - And that Special Revelation from God is His Word given to us in the Bible.
- ii. However, our need for this kind of special revelation from God should not deter us to continue to research our world, make discoveries, advance in knowledge, and learn from history.



- God has revealed himself generally in the creation.
- He gave us faculties, the ability to reason, senses that we collect information with so that we could explore and fulfill that purpose he gave us back in Genesis...to exercise benevolent dominion over the creation.
- The Bible is not threatened by science and our belief and reliance on the Bible should not deter science but encourage it!
  1. Science will not make the Word of God null!
  2. It hasn't to date and it won't in the future.

**b. But, we must know our place.**

- i. **We are not God. We do not determine what is ultimately good and ultimately true.**
  - God controls that. He is our Creator. And we trust our lives to Him.
  - We humbly give over to God the authority over what is true and good.
- ii. **And not only do we give Him that authority...He is actually Lord over what is true and good.**
  - Let me explain....if I were to tell you that tacos are good, what am I doing?
    1. I am judging tacos based off of an external standard.
    2. That external standard is what is good and what is not good.
    3. Tacos meet the standard of good. Steak makes the standard of great.
  - But, when we say that God is good.



1. We are not judging God based off of an external standard.
2. It's not as if there is this external value of good that God must somehow submit to in order to be considered good.
3. No! God is Lord over what is good.
4. God is the standard of good.

**c. And as God's creation, we must recognize God as Lord over what is good and what is true.**

- i. And if he is Lord over what is good and what is true, then his written Word to us in the Bible must be accepted as our standard of what is good and what is true.
  - Even when we read things that, at first glance, don't seem to be good or we have hard time believing as true.
- ii. **But this goes back to knowing who we are and knowing who God is.**
  - We are God's creation literally created through the Word of God.
  - And God designed us with intelligence to explore the vastness of his creation, but he also designed us to be utterly reliant on His Word.
  - Without the light of God's Word, we are left in the dark...clawing at the walls of the cave...searching for truth.

**VI. 2 PETER 1:16-21**

- a. **In the AD 60'S, the Apostle Peter wrote a letter to some churches in the Roman Empire who were under fierce persecution for their faith.**



- i. **A kind of persecution we are blessed to not have to worry about at this time.**
  - These people, if caught worshipping Jesus, would literally be brutally tortured and murdered.
  - And Peter is writing a letter to them in order to encourage them to keep on believing and to be steadfast in their faith.
- ii. **If you're writing someone and their life is literally at stake...what encouragement do you give?**
  - Do you say: Don't worry! We're praying for ya!
  - Or do you say: Don't worry! God would never allow anything bad to happen to ya!
- iii. **Well, the Apostle Peter was encouraging these persecuted Christians with the hope of the Gospel!**
  - That those who trust in Jesus are guaranteed everlasting life because although we have sinned in the same way as Adam and Eve in the garden by rejecting God's Word, forgiveness is available in and through Jesus.
    1. Jesus, the Son of God, came, died in our place on the cross, and rose again from the dead so that we may one day rise again from the dead as well.
    2. And whoever trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins will be saved.
    3. And Peter was reminding them of the promise that one day, Jesus was going to return, execute justice, and make all things new for His people.



- And you can put your lives on the line for the gospel because this gospel is true.
  1. This wasn't just comforting religious speak.
  2. No, Peter is encouraging these persecuted Christians with the certainty of the Word of God.
  3. With the fact that it is not the emperor of Rome that determines what is good and true, God does!

**b. Read 2 Peter 1:16-21**

- V.16 - I'm not making this up. This isn't a myth or some fairy tale that we tell ourselves to make us feel better. No, I was an eyewitness of the Lord Jesus!
- V.17-18 - Peter is referring to the mount of transfiguration.
  1. Where Peter, James, and John went up on this mountain with Jesus.
  2. And Jesus revealed to them his divinity.
  3. And God boomed from heaven the identity of Jesus as the Son of God.
  4. And Peter is saying...I saw this with my eyes and heard this with my ears.
  5. But, look at v.19.
- V.19a - So, the translation can be tricky here.
  1. Some see v.19 as saying that our Scriptures have been confirmed by events like Peter's experience on the mount of Transfiguration.
  2. Some translate v.19 as saying that the prophetic word (your Bible) is a more sure and reliable witness than even Peter's experience on the mount of transfiguration.



- Regardless of the right translation, the point remains the same.
  1. The Bible that you have in your hands is just as sufficient and effective (maybe even more so) at communicating to us the Word of God as it would have been walking with Jesus and witnessing his miraculous works.
  2. This is just as good as Peter's eyewitness experience.
  3. Let that sink in.
- V.19b - The Word of God, written in the Bible, is our light in this darkness until Christ returns and is fully with us.
- V.20-21
  1. GRAPHE - Written.
  2. And what was written down at that page did not come from the will of man.
  3. Man is not the one who determined what is true and good and decided to put it on paper.
  4. No, God is Lord over what is true and good and he guided and inspired human authors by the Holy Spirit to write His special revelation down on paper.
- i. **Peter encourages these churches with the truth of the return of Jesus because that truth has been revealed to us by special revelation from God and therefore is fully trustworthy.**



## **VII. CONCLUSION AND VISION**

### **a. We need the Bible. It is our light in the darkness of this world.**

- i. And that is why we are jumping into an eight-week series about the Doctrine of the Word of God.
- ii. And we are going to try and tackle as much as we can in this series.
  - We are going to talk about...
    1. What we mean when we say that the Bible is inerrant, completely without error.
    2. How the Bible is sufficient to guide us in all of life's circumstances.
    3. How we got the Bible we have today. Who compiled it? How did it get translated?
    4. How the Bible fits together as one unified story.
    5. How to read the Bible and interpret the Bible.
    6. Hard passages and how they fit in with the gospel.
    7. What it means to live your life utterly reliant on the Scriptures.

### **b. So, I hope that you engage in this series and if you miss a week, that you'll listen on our podcast.**

- i. Because Grace Hill, I cannot think of a more crucial doctrine for us to be unapologetic about than the doctrine of the Word of God.



- In our culture today, it is popular and common for churches to begin to loosen their grip on the doctrine of the Word of God.
  1. The temptation to take back from God the authority of who determines what is true and good is strong.
- And in our sin, if we take just an inch of autonomy from God, it will lead us down a path of darkness and alienation from God.
- ii. **As humans, we do not determine what is true and good. We need special revelation from God because God controls what is true and good.**
  - He is Lord and we sit underneath His Word, written down for us in the Bible.
- iii. **And at this church, we will never loosen our grip on the doctrine of the Word of God.**
  - In fact, if I ever loosen my grip and I begin to preach in such a way that would cause you to question the inerrancy and sufficiency of the Scriptures...
    1. Get rid of me.
    2. And put a pastor up here who will not waiver in what we believe about the Bible.
  - The culture will go back and forth. They will attack any sort of notion that we, as humans, cannot control nor determine what is true and good.
    1. But the Word of God has always endured, it endures today, and it will forever.

## VIII. PRAY

