



Attitudes of Excellence

Lesson Four: Attitudes Toward Scriptures

Our Bibles are essential to our faith. The Bible is the link and bridge to God. Attitude about the Bible is paramount to our walk with the Lord.

Here are some stats from the Bara Institute:

- 9 out of 10 Americans own a Bible (average home has 3.5 Bibles)
- 6 out of 10 who claim they have no faith or are atheists own a Bible
- 61% wish they read the Bible more

Mixed Reviews about the Word of God Found in the Bible:

- Jehoiakim cut the Bible into pieces and threw it into a fire (Jer 36:23)
- At the preaching of Stephen, some covered their ears (Acts 7:57)
- When Paul talked about the resurrection, some sneered (Acts 17:32)
- Timothy was warned that some would not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:3)
- Paul was amazed that some had quickly left the Gospel for another message (Gal 1:6-8)

Very Common Attitudes About the Scriptures:

1. Unless God specifically says something is wrong, then it is ok to do it
2. God continues to reveal His will today (often personally and directly to a person)
3. Accepting only the Words of Jesus (Red letters) but not what the apostles wrote
4. Failure to distinguish the difference between the O.T. and the N.T.
5. The acceptance of by-laws, oral traditions, creeds as part of what God wants
6. Belief that the Bible is a collection of ancient stories

How Would You Respond to these Attitudes?

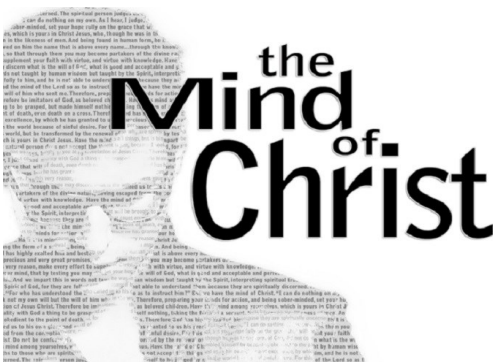
Common Objections to the Bible

It is full of violence, genocide, prejudice and injustice and has been used by Christians to justify more violence and oppression. It is contrary to the concept that God is love.

Its' descriptions of nature and history are hopelessly at odds with science

It was written by ancient and primitive people, and has no value to modern people

Christians can't even agree on what it says, so who cares if it's true or not



7. Rejection of the authority of the Bible (more than 70% do not believe in absolute truth)
8. Belief that the Bible applies to a person if they want to be a Christian. But if you don't, it doesn't apply to you.
9. I don't need the Bible to be religious. (I love God in my own way. I do not need a church, or a book to tell me what I know about God. Faith has no boundaries. My faith cannot be defined.)

Watching Our Attitudes About Those We Disagree With:

1. People in other churches DO read their Bibles
2. People in other churches are not dumb
3. Not everything that is done in other churches is wrong



To reject Scriptures is to reject _____ (Jn 12:48; Rom 9:20)
To reject part of the Bible is to reject _____ of the Bible (Gal 5:2-3)
A person cannot be right with God and _____ with the Bible

1. What is the Bible supposed to do?

Bible answers the three most important questions

- Where did I come _____ (Ps 100:3)
- Why am I _____ (Ecc 12:13)
- Where am I _____ (Jn 5:28-29)

What is not from God:

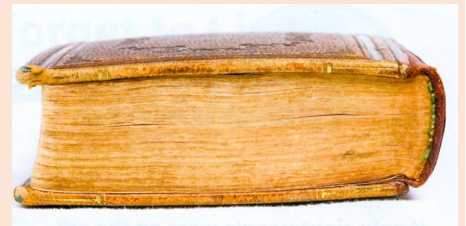
Translations
Chapter and verse numberings
Explanation notes at the bottom of page
Marginal references

2. How do we know the Bible is from God

- How do we know that we have all the Bible?

The Attitude God Wants Us To Have Towards the Bible

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.



Out of the Reformation Movement came, *Scriptura Sola*, a Latin expression that meant, Scripture Alone.

Out of the American Restoration Movement came the expression, "*We speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where it is silent.*"