

## Believing the Scriptures

Isaiah 59:9-21; 2 Peter 1:16-21 / Psalm 36:1-12

### I. God Gave the Bible to His People

**A. The Bible is the product of eyewitness; it is not a literary creation.** For *we have not followed cunningly devised fables*, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, *but were eyewitnesses* of his majesty. (2 PETER 1:16)

**B. Peter considered the Bible more reliable than eyewitness accounts.** *We have also a more sure word of prophecy*; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: (2 PETER 1:19)

**C. The Bible came by the work of the Holy Spirit, interpreting itself.** Knowing this first, that *no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation*. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: *but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*. (2 PETER 1:20-21)

### II. The Bible Is Reliable

**A. There will be dangerous alternatives to the Scripture which will produce disastrous results.** But there were false prophets also among the people, even *as there shall be false teachers* among you, *who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them*, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And *many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of*. (2 PETER 2:1-2)

**B. Consider the difference between those who submit to Scripture and those who do not.** *Ye shall know them by their fruits*. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? (MATTHEW 7:16)

**C. Discernment develops through interaction with Scripture.** For with thee *is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light*. (PSALM 36:9)

**D. Reject substitutes and alternatives.** As we said before, so say I now again, *If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed*. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for *if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ*. (GALATIANS 1:9-10)

### III. Bible-Believers Display Common Traits

**A. Believers obey without quibbling; God doesn't like excuses.** *If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death*, and *those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it?* and shall *not* he render to every man according to his works? (PROVERBS 24:11-12)

**B. People with eyes trained on Scripture do not become distracted by the currents of popular culture.** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is the gate*, and *broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction*, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is the gate*, and *narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life*, and few there be that find it. (MATTHEW 7:13-14)

**C. Bible users tailor the various parts of Scripture together to see the larger patterns not just individual passages. *Study to shew thyself approved* unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth.* (2 TIMOTHY 2:15)**

**D. The spiritual life becomes personal, not theoretical. *Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine;* continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. (1 TIMOTHY 4:16)**

**E. Bible believers understand that the chain of authority leads back to God. *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life;* that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. (2 Timothy 2:4)**

**F. Spirits formed by Scripture encourage other believers to become Bible-believers too. And let us consider one another to *provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling* of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is; but exhorting one another:* and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (HEBREWS 10:24-25)**

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