

## Chapter Eight

### *Just The Bible*

***Don't read books about life. Read the book that is life.***

I began a journey reading the Bible to search for ammunition against hypocrisy. I did not believe it nor ever intended to. *The Journey* was *Just The Bible*. Ironically this proved to be the safest path. Even once I “believed” in Jesus Christ I never even considered that there was tangible proof that He was real and the stories I read were true.

I went into it with the view that many people have today including church attendees. I thought the Bible was a religious book written by men describing their beliefs about God and what they claimed to observe. The stories in it must be metaphorical and relative to the times and by no means actual history. God was relative in my mind and defined in many ways by a world of religious pluralism.

I then found my self completely transformed from a prayer of repentance to Jesus Christ asking for forgiveness and help. My mind was so ingrained with the ideas of society I didn't even realize what had happened. I found out the answers were in the Bible and salvation is a real event causing real changes with proof from the Holy Spirit just as the Bible describes.

I have found the Bible to be the most fascinating and challenging book I have ever studied. It has the depth of the universe and the interconnected layered messaging system of DNA, which interestingly is also a very large word with a triplet (trinity) code. It is my daily bread, light for my path, and a never ending *Instruction Manual* for life. It is ironic for the same book to have been ancient religious nonsense just one year ago. I have never read and studied anything even close to it. The more I learn the more I realize I know nothing. This is the most liberating, paradoxical, and counterintuitive blessing imaginable

Today there are many arguments about the Bible. Is it the word of God and fully inspired by Him? These arguments have only divided people and caused division instead of unity. Simply look at what happened to me and what the implications of *He Heard Me* are. They answer all of them. The Bible proved to be true that night at least from a salvation point of view and the fact that Jesus is alive, omniscient, and omnipresent. He heard exactly what I said and acted on it by His grace. There is no other conclusion to draw.

If God is real and the infinitely powerful creator of the entire world and universe who is everywhere at all times then why would anyone think He cannot put a book into this world that is His word? Is there any logic in believing in God that is omnipresent and yet unable to make a book say what He wants it to? The Bible does claim to be the word of God. After what happened to me is there any reason to doubt the book? I cannot even as a scientist rationalize how a creator of that power would not make certain His creation had an *Instruction Manual* when He took the time to come to earth and die for His creation. The logic behind such a belief is simply not there. God has either revealed Himself exactly the way He wants in the Bible or He has revealed nothing at all.

I will tell you the truth, because I was chief executive scoffer. People reject the Bible and Genesis because of the implications it has for their lives. This creative power brings absolute accountability to every aspect of our life that I hated and didn't want. I hid behind all kinds of arguments and luckily had many scientists and evolution to give me the escape door I wanted. My heart knew the truth, but I would never admit it. Remember I did not start out to find God and really didn't even know it when I did. I had to accept the accountability and implications of Genesis and *He Heard Me*.

If you consider yourself a Christian then you should believe God came to earth to die for your sins so you can go to heaven. The basic initial goal is to "get into" heaven and live forever, but you need to know two things: how to obtain eternal life (salvation) and the definition of sin. You can't understand what Jesus died for and why this had to happen without understanding sin.

How can you ask for salvation without understanding how to be saved and what you are being saved from? If the Bible is relative, metaphorical, and mainly teaching stories and not God's word then how will anyone learn about these two essential points? Does man get to define salvation and sin? If Jesus said something in the Bible about salvation or sin how can it be trusted?

Does it really make sense to believe God came to earth to die for us and not leave mankind with exactly what He wants us to go by? How can anyone be certain they have eternal life? Do we really want to trust what a modern man tells us or what Jesus said? How can we know what God says being a Christian is about and how to become one? You see Christianity falls apart without the Bible as God's word.

Why is someone a Christian? Is it to have the certainty of eternal life or just practice a religion with good moral teachings and simply hope heaven is real? If it's just religion and another belief system then I guess the Bible is not important. If Christianity to some has become a religious social experience of spirituality based on parables and metaphorical stories from long ago then what really is it? If someone wants to base eternity on man made doctrines and traditions then they have every right to do so.

Why would a Christian object to the Bible as the word of God and basis for their belief system? If Jesus quoted scripture all the time and the Bible claims to be the word of God and Jesus the Word then why reject this? If it claims to show the way to eternal life why not study it intently? If it is made relative or rejected then on what basis is anything known? Do we really believe God died on the cross for mankind and then decided to let man decide what to believe and hope he would make wise choices about obtaining what He died for?

No, none of this makes sense. The majority of the Bible is crystal clear and has to be twisted from what the words simply say. It was written for everyone and not just "the modern man." If this is the case then why is it becoming so popular with books, churches, pastors, and college professors proclaiming it? There is a very popular movement to make the Bible relative, all interpretation, only a response of man to God, and metaphorical. There is only one common thread and reason that makes sense. They don't like what the Bible says. The Bible holds people strictly accountable to a standard imposed by God that today stands against most of the world.

The Bible is not politically correct today and this presents a major problem for many people in their careers and the politics of them. If the Bible can be made relative and no longer God's word

then these rules don't apply, moral law is relative to the times, accountability is eliminated, and our secret lives are justified in our mind. This is exactly where the answer lies. Man has by modern reasoning and intellectualization replaced God's divine revelation.

These scholars and teachers who basically say the Bible is a parable, metaphorical, and not an accurate account of history destroy the resurrection and Christianity right along with it. They also forget that their own view is a truth claim. If the Gospels are simply tradition, historical memories of men, perceptions, metaphorical narrative, and a sketch of Jesus and what believers claimed happened then what do we have? This destroys the hope of the resurrection. If the resurrection is not a real historical event then Christianity is a hopeless belief system. Even the Bible makes this claim.

1 Corinthians 15:16-19

For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; 17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. NAS

They can call this Christianity but it's not. Jesus Christ came to save people and if you don't believe this as a "Christian" what do you have? This has gotten so ridiculous that some people even claim Christianity is not exclusive in its claims. A college professor in the New Testament said it's not even about believing or Christianity but simply about a generic "God". Religious pluralism has by "common sense" mandated that there can't be one way.

There is also a deep seated fear of simply rejecting the Bible. This is the reason man has tried to make what God said fit our selfish desires. Scholars, college professors, pastors and many others have come to the rescue embracing a relative read of the Bible that fits with our selfish desires and political agendas that are hidden behind degrees and historical analysis. Ironically, the Bible predicts that this very thing would happen.

The modern world is moving away from the Bible because truth about God has been made relative to justify the self-defined generation. Today's culture wants the individual personal tastes, morals, and values to define truth for that person. It's an escape from *He Heard Me*. I was kicked off the executive committee of this self-defined generation by a unanimous vote for finding and telling the truth.

It's also important to remember Christianity is a relationship and not a Bible study of facts and doctrines. The Bible is God's living word that has revealed Himself to man so we can know Him better and understand what He has to say to His creation. We communicate with words because we are made in the image of God.

Salvation is simple but is a major problem exactly because the Bible is not being read, taught, studied, and preached like it needs to be. If Biblical salvation is not taught then people will assume they have it or think they can work for it. They will also be subject to false doctrine and a poor understanding of what Jesus their own savior said about salvation. Teaching from the Bible is not the same as teach the Bible.

There are major sects of Christianity that have taken the power of salvation and given it to man while claiming to "believe" in the Bible. They claim man can earn his way into heaven by using water or completing a certain list of deeds on a checklist. This is completely unbiblical and in

contradiction to the early church and the words of Jesus Himself. Christianity is a huge mess today and it can't be explained away.

You see my task is much more difficult than I ever imagined. I thought it would be to convince people that Jesus Christ is the answer, and never dreamed the toughest audience would be people sitting in church! It is easier in many cases to convince someone with no religious background to receive Christ than someone who regularly attends church, because he doesn't have to unlearn anything.

The more time I have spent addressing topics like evolution, creation, the flood, religious pluralism, and Tarzan in the jungle who has never heard the gospel the more I have heard a little voice echoing in my heart. The voice keeps pointing me to the basics of life like mere existence and love. *Love is a Solitary Apologetic Argument* to find the truth. This will encompass the next section, which starts the body of the book. Follow your heart and you will find life.

John 6:63

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. NIV

***The Bible is called extreme because we are afraid of being extremely wrong.***