

Doctrine of Bible

Why matter how we view the Bible?

Our attitude will affect 4 things about our Bible studies...

1. **our purpose** - why are we gathering? Just social. Religious interest. Or coming to hear God?

2. **our attitudes** - excitement that hear from God? respect and desire to be shaped by Bible?

3. **the way we deal with difficulties** - Art gallery analogy. Am I the expert or is the Bible? Am I willing to be led?

4. **our hope to change** - is there power to change? can we be changed? if so, how?

Understanding of Bible underlines everything doing = assumption
want that shape our conversations....

Evang BS obviously different....

6 foundations for Bible study

The Bible is inspired

Bible is from God

not our thoughts and words about God, but God's thoughts and words to us

However: there is a difference from the Qu'ran!

1. different kinds of inspiration - prophets in OT, letters in NT

2. meaning not words themselves - can be translated

3. Jesus is the miracle and centre (Word of God)

Bible: many human authors *but* God's hand (how possible? analogy of providence for muslims)

What does this mean for BS?

We are in the presence of God!

The Bible is *the* authority

all words of Bible = God's words

therefore: *to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture = disbelieve or disobey God*

Bible claims this authority for itself (2 Tim 3:15-16, Deut 18:19, 2 Pet 1:21, John 14:46, 16:13, quotations from OT in NT, authority in letters of Paul etc)

Bible itself will convince us of its authority (1 Cor 2:13f, John 10:27)

Other evidence is useful but not finally convincing

Conclusion: the Bible's authority is established by the Bible

application:

- want passage to be authority in Bible study not people's opinions or ideas (including mine!)
- trust in the power of the Bible....people will be convinced by reading Bible itself (Evang BS)

The Bible is truthful

Negatively: there is no error or lie in the Bible

Positively: we can trust what the Bible says

God doesn't lie and his words are completely true (Titus 1:2, Heb 6:18)

God's words are the ultimate standard of truth

application:

- Bible study is faith-strengthening.... pointing out this is true. Giving us reality

The Bible is clear

the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings can be understood by everyone who genuinely wants to hear God

Bible affirms its own clarity (Deut 6:6-7, Ps 19:7, Ps 119:130)

We need certain qualities to understand rightly (e.g. Luke 10:21)

application

- you can be confident about the Bible in Bible study
- everyone can be involved in the study

The Bible is necessary

the Bible is necessary for knowing God and getting spiritual life

Luke 10:38-42 - only one thing is needed! many good things but we need this thing!

people ask "how can we know God?!"

The Bible is necessary for saving knowledge of God and his will (Rom 10:13-17, Ps 119:1, 1 John 5:3)

The Bible is necessary for maintaining spiritual life (Matt 4:4) - food analogy, no Bible - no breakfast!

application

Bible study is necessary.... everyone needs it!

The Bible is sufficient

the Bible contains everything that God's people need to be saved, know him and obey him

we can find what God has said on different issues (2 Tim 3:15-17, Heb 1:1)

Scripture is sufficient for each stage of revelation

application

we mustn't add other things to the Bible in Bible study

we don't need to believe or do anything that is not required by the Bible

we should emphasize what the Bible emphasizes

We need to have these convictions

Our Bible studies need to be shaped by these convictions

Where there is power!

So: "Bible in front of me....eyes down"