

Biblical Position on Today's Social Issues – Part 4

Isaiah 55:11

The Roman Catholic view was summarized at the Council of Trent (1545-1563), “*Following then the example of the orthodox fathers, it [the church] receives and venerates with the same sense of loyalty and reverence all the books of the Old and New Testaments ... together with all the traditions concerning faith and morals, as coming from the mouth of Christ or being inspired by the Holy Spirit and being preserved in continuous succession in the Catholic Church*”.

VI. The Bible's Unity

Book of Mormon was written by one man who plagiarized much of his material and whose personal character was suspect. In contrast, the Bible is a library of 66 books written over a period of close to 1500 years by at least 40 different human authors. These human authors were from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Joseph Smith claimed these “secret writings” could only be read by him and only using special glasses. Joseph Smith also claimed he was visited by an angel of light that dictated to him the Book of Mormon. The Bible specifically warns of this in **2 Corinthians 11:13-14**, “¹³*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light*”. Paul also warned the church at Galatia, “⁸*For even if we, or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed*” (**Galatians 1:8**).

The Bible – written over 1500 year on 3 continents with 40 authors – Moses was a highly educated man trained in the universities of Egypt, Joshua was a military general, Amos was a herdsman, Daniel a government official, Solomon was a king, Peter was a fisherman, Luke was a Physician, and Matthew was a tax collector. These books were written on three different continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe) in three different languages (Hebrew, Greek, and a small portion of the Old Testament in Aramaic).

Yet, the Bible is unified and contains no contradictions. The Bible has one theme – salvation; the Bible has one hero – the Lord Jesus; the Bible has one villain – the devil; the Bible has one purpose – the glory of God! In the Old Testament we have salvation prepared; in the Gospels we have salvation provided; in the book of Acts we have salvation proclaimed; in the Epistles we have salvation explained; in Revelation we have salvation consummated.

VII. The Bible's Preservation

In 303 AD the Roman Emperor Diocletian mounted the most massive attack ever against the Bible using the political and military power of Rome. He issued proclamations that every Bible should be burned. That didn't work so he decreed that every person should give up their Bible or be killed. He killed a lot of Christians because he found that they would rather die than give up the Bible. When Diocletian thought he had the victory, he erected a column that said in Latin, “*Extincto Nomine Christianorium*”. That is translated, “The name of Christian has been extinguished”. Just 25 years later, the new Emperor, Constantine had publicly professed Christianity and ordered Bibles to be copied at the government's expense.

Thomas Paine wrote, “The Age of Reason”. It viciously attacked Christianity. He felt that his arguments would destroy the Bible and in a few years it would be out of print. He said, “*When I get through there will not be five Bibles left in America.*” How many of you have a personal copy of Paine's “Age of Reason”? How many of you have at least one copy of the Bible?

VIII. What Jesus Said About the Bible

Matthew 5:17-19 (NKJV) “¹⁷*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*”

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- A. Jesus also said, in **John 10:35b (NKJV)** “and the Scripture cannot be broken”. In **Mark 12:36 (NKJV)** “For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” He was affirming that the writings of David in the Psalms were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- B. Some teach that Adam and Eve were not literal people – only symbolic of mankind. Listen to what Jesus said about them in **Matthew 19:4-5 (NKJV)** “⁴ And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female,’⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’”.
- C. Many people discount the historicity of a worldwide flood, but Jesus believed it. He said in **Matthew 24:37-39 (NKJV)** “³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”
- D. Jesus also endorsed the New Testament by authorizing its writers. **Luke 10:16** *Whoever listens to you listens to Me. Whoever rejects you rejects Me. And whoever rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”*

IX. The Changed Lives of Believers

Romans 1:16 (NKJV) says “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” **Jeremiah 23:29 (NKJV)** “‘Is not My word like a fire?’ says the Lord, ‘And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?’” **Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” The word of God has power to cut open the deepest recesses of the heart and expose us. Look how we stand before God’s word. **Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV)** says “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

X. The Testimony of the Holy Spirit

If a person is seeking to know truth and we can get them in the Word of God, they will know it is trustworthy because the Holy Spirit will testify to them. Jesus said in **John 7:17 (NKJV)** “If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.” Our task is not first of all to defend the Bible, but to proclaim it. The Bible says in **Romans 10:14 (NKJV)** “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

- A. In the 1700’s Charles Wesley said this about the Bible: “The Bible must be the invention either of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God. Therefore, 1) It could not be the invention of good men or angels, for they neither would nor could make a book, and tell lies all the time they were writing it, saying, ‘Thus saith the Lord’ when it was their own invention. 2) It could not be the invention of bad men or devils, for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell for all eternity. 3) Therefore, this conclusion can be drawn, that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration.” That’s hard to refute.

Conclusion

Someone once said, “It is saving for the sinner, sweet for the saint, sufficient for the sufferer, and satisfying for the scholar”.

ח ם A Hebrew “Jot”

י ך A Hebrew “Tittle”