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## WHY THIS SERIES?

- Jesus warns his disciples about future realities (Matthew 24:10-14, 2 Timothy 4:1-5)

**Matthew 24:10-14 (NIV)** - At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

## THIS WEEK: THE BIBLE

- Jesus made it clear that God's Word - the Bible - was reliable and always will be.
  - He quotes and affirms the Old Testament multiple times (Matthew 15:3-7)
  - He makes promises about his words (John 12:48-50, Matthew 5:18, 24:35)
  - He affirms his words and the disciple's authority to teach them accurately (John 10:16)
  - The Apostles affirm God's word and the authority given to them by God to teach it. (1Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:10-17, Hebrews 2:1-4)

## WHAT WE AT REAL LIFE BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it is inspired by God, the Bible is infallible, inerrant, and absolute truth. It is the ultimate and final authority for Christian beliefs and living.

- All scripture is God breathed - inspired by God
- The Bible is inerrant and infallible
  - In-errancy means freedom from error or untruths.
  - Infallible means incapable of error or failure
  - Error comes from two things: deceit or ignorance. Scripture tells us God is incapable of either.

## WE ARE TO STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH THAT IS...

1. **The Gospel** - Who Jesus is, what He has done and what He says is true (Galatians 1:6-8)
  2. **The Faith** - The sound teaching & doctrine of Jesus and his disciples (Jude 3, 1 Timothy 4:16, Matthew 28:19)
- **The right interpretation of scripture leads to the right "faith"**
    - Historical revisionism is everywhere
    - Reading our meanings back into scripture rather than understanding their words and meanings into ours
  - **How we understand what the scriptures say? - the historical principle**
    - The Historical Principle of Hermeneutics
    - The Principle of time --Those who lived at the time of the writers would have the best understanding of the right meaning and practice

- The book of Acts and the Apostolic Church Fathers –the disciples of the disciples
- They were there to ask Jesus and the Apostles what they meant

### **Tertullian (140-230)**

“I say that my gospel is the true one. Marcion (a leading gnostic teacher) says his is. I say that Maricon’s gospel is adulterated. He says mine is. Now, how can we settle this stand-off, unless we use the principle of time. According to this principle, authority lies with the one who is prior in time. It’s based on the elemental truth that corruption (of doctrine) lies with the one who is shown to have originated later in time. Since error is falsification of truth, truth must necessarily proceed error.”

### **David W. Bercot (Historian and author)**

Tertullian’s “principle of time” is one of the main criteria modern historians use to evaluate conflicting historical accounts. The one written closest to the actual events is normally given credence over the one written much later...Why then do we choose doctrines that were first taught 1,400 years or more after the deaths of the apostles over ones that were taught within a few decades of their lives?

## **APPLICATION**

1. Live committed lives to what the Bible says - no matter what (Luke 6:46-49, Romans 12:1-2)
2. Live wisely amongst believers and unbelievers (1 Corinthians 5:9-12)
  - a. We must speak and live out the truth within the body of believers - the family of God
  - b. We must speak truthfully and wisely amongst unbelievers
  - c. Remember that we have all sinned and are saved by grace through faith (John 8:8-11)
  - d. Have right conversations in the right settings at the right times
3. To live in unity on issues of secondary importance (Romans 14:19-23)

## **QUESTIONS TO REFLECT AND DISCUSS:**

**Passages to consider:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119; Micah 6:8; Isaiah 26:8-10.

### **Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in the sermon? What about it was significant to you?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 & Hebrews 4:12. What do these passages tell us about God and his word to us?
3. What role does God’s word have in your daily life and understanding of how to live? When you don’t understand something in the bible what do you do? How does God’s word help you make sense of the world you live in?
4. Read Psalm 119:97-112. What do you see about the author’s relationship to God? What role does God’s word play in that relationship? What can you personally glean from this passage?
5. In what way do you want to grow in how you interact with God and his word?
6. Try praying this prayer several times this week:  
 God, Creator and Lord of all the world, you who reveals himself through the Bible and displays himself in creation, give me a heart to know you through your word. Give me a hunger to seek truth, give me wisdom to discern your ways, give me humility to seek you and to see the world through your eyes. May your word be a lamp to my feet, guiding me in these times I live in. Amen.

**Next week:** Controversial - Christopher Yuan, special speaker and conference.