

“Jesus and the Bible!”

Mark 7:6-13

Intro. – A young teacher with obvious liberal tendencies was explaining to her 5th graders that she was an atheist. She asked her class if they too were atheists. Not really knowing what atheism was but wanting to please their teacher, most of the hands shot up into the air. There was one exception however. A little girl named Lucy had not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asked her why she had decided to be different.

“Because I’m not an atheist,” responded Lucy.

Then, asked the teacher, “What are you?”

“I’m a Christian,” Lucy said with confidence.

The teacher was flustered by now, her face slightly red. She asked Lucy why she then is a Christian.

“Well, I was brought up knowing/loving Jesus. My Dad is Xtian, Mom is Xtian; so I too became Xtian.”

The teacher was visibly upset now. “That’s no reason to call yourself a Christian,” she said loudly. “What if your Dad was a moron? What if your Mom was a moron? What would you be then?!”

Lucy paused and smiled, “Then,” said Lucy, “I’d be an atheist.”

Let me use this to introduce today’s study. “Does it really matter what I believe about the Bible, as long as, I believe in Jesus?” This question has been posed to me personally. It reflects a growing trend amongst many today. A lot of sincere people are asking this and similar questions. As a result, some have become skeptical of the Bible’s complete trustworthiness. They seek to separate faith in Jesus from confidence in the Bible. So what I’m hearing is as follows: “Faith is directed not to Scripture, but to Christ. We’ve accepted Christ as our Savior; why can’t we just follow Him? Does it really matter what we believe about the Bible?”

The real question behind all of this however is: “Does it matter to Jesus?” Was Jesus indifferent to the nature of the Bible? If He was, what did Jesus say and believe about the Bible – its origin, nature and authority?

Purpose: to come to a fuller understanding of Jesus’ view of the Bible

Want to attempt to accomplish this by focusing on two points: 1) X view of Bible; 2) Our view of Christ

I CHRIST’S VIEW OF THE BIBLE

- honestly, have you given this anything thought? Do you really know Christ’s view of Bible?
- Illus. – finding that many peoples’ understanding of Christ’s view of the Bible can be illustrated as follows: leadership meeting at church where they were experiencing a lighting problem. One man said, “I make a motion we buy a chandelier.” Another immediately responded, “I’m against that for 3 reasons: 1) no one knows how to spell it... 2) there isn’t anyone in the church that can play it... 3) and the third reason, we need more lights in the building...
- Jesus’ use of Scripture was anything but casual or infrequent. His life/teachings were filled with Bible.
- thus, when you/I read NT it’s not a bit difficult to discern the doctrine of Scripture as taught by Jesus:

A. Divine in Origin

1. Jesus acknowledged human authors of Scripture – e.g. Moses (John 5:46); Isaiah (Matthew 15:7); David (Luke 20:42)
2. He went further and taught that God (Himself) was the ultimate author of the Bible – e.g. David wrote Psalm 110, but did it under the inspiration of Holy Spirit (Mark 12:36)
3. Being divine in origin the Bible is rightly called *God’s Word* or *The Word of God* – the very phrase used by Jesus in our text (Mark 7:13)
4. What Jesus taught of OT, He promised for the NT:
 - a. John 14:26 “*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*”
 - b. John 16:12-15 “*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to*

Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you.”

- c. it's proper to infer this applies to both spoken and written word (i.e. the completed NT)
5. Bible's origin – without question, Jesus taught and lived that it was from God (Himself)!

B. Perfect in Reliability

1. Jesus affirmed absolute reliability of Bible by regarding it as being the *very Word of God*.
2. If the Bible is God's Word (and it is) then it **MUST** be true = John 17:17 “*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*”
3. Jesus' strongest statement of Bible's trustworthiness is John 10:35 “*...and the Scripture cannot be broken*” = cannot be challenged, disproven, denied, unalterable and indestructible in its truth... i.e. God's Word is absolutely **SOLID!**
4. In summary, Jesus said it all in Luke 24:25 “*He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!'*”

C. Absolute in Authority

1. Jesus accepted AND endorsed the Bible's absolute authority – Jesus' use of Scripture was sufficient to end all debate. Remember how He often said, “*It is written...*”?
2. It is significant to note that Jesus explained His exalted nature by using Scripture... He explained His mission by using Scripture... He explained your/my greatest need by using Scripture...
3. Doctrinal errors arise when Scripture is misunderstood or abused. Jesus said this in Matthew 22:29 “*Jesus replied, 'You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.'*”
4. The finality of Biblical authority applies to ethics, as well as, to doctrine – Jesus led the way recognizing absolute authority through the Word!

What was Jesus' view of the Bible? Divine in origin, perfect in reliability and absolute in authority!

II OUR VIEW OF CHRIST

A. We Accept Him as Savior

1. When we become Christians, we *trust* Him, trust Him to be able to save us from the consequences of sin, the punishment of our sins...
2. We believe His Word – that Jesus' life was given as a ransom... substitute... to pay for the punishment of your sins and my sins at Calvary...
3. We believe His Word that **at baptism** we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit – i.e. His presence in our life for the express purpose of being *enabled* to live the life as we should in response grace!
4. We believe as His Word says, “*He comes again to receive us unto Himself...*” Jesus will return...

B. We Surrender to Him as Lord

1. We accept Christ's final authority in our lives in **ALL** areas!
2. He is always right – we are bound to do whatever He says. Why? Because He is Lord!!
3. Illus. – remember saying and still remind them ever once in a while, “I may not always be right, but I'll always be your Dad!” Jesus **IS** always right – He is Lord!!

C. Must View Bible As He Views It

1. If Christ really is Savior/Lord of our lives, such necessitates our accepting His view of Scripture...
 - Christ did in fact, claim to be the very embodiment of *truth* (John 14:6; 18:37) and because of this are we not bound to accept as true everything He said concerning the Bible?
2. If Jesus' statements concerning the Bible are wrong, then what about His teachings on salvation, righteousness, worship etc.?!?
3. If such really were the case, Jesus would be an impotent Savior and an unworthy Lord.
4. **BUT**, it is more than reasonable to accept all of what He said as *truth* and all of what He did as being consistent with His being our Savior and our Lord.
5. Make no mistake – Jesus alone is the all-sufficient Savior and the all-powerful Lord!

How can you and I be so sure? The Bible tells you and it tells me that this is in fact true!

Conclusion: Ever since his confession of betting on baseball, Pete Rose has wondered if he will ever make it into Baseball's Hall of Fame. It has and continues to be a hot topic of discussion in sports broadcast, magazines and newspapers. What do you think? Should Pete Rose be inducted into the Hall of Fame?... Does it really matter in the grand scheme of things? Does it matter as far as eternity is concerned?

Back to the question I began with this morning. "Does it really matter what I believe about the Bible, just as long as, I believe in Jesus?"

You bet it does! We can't be indifferent to anything out which our Lord was passionate. In short, our view of the Bible is inescapably tied to our view of Christ Himself. How you view the Bible is how you view Christ. How you view Christ is how you view the Bible.

Matthew 22:41ff Jesus asked Pharisees, "...*What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?*" They responded, "*The son of David.*" Jesus responds with what? Scripture proving Who He was!

Do we know who He is and what He has, is, and will do? How we view the Scriptures will determine whether or not Jesus really ever is Savior and Lord of our lives!!!