

Answering Basic Questions (Part 2): What Is the Bible?

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: 1 Peter 3:15

In our text, Peter explained that each Christian needs to be ready to give an answer for what we believe. Giving a defense for the HOPE within us requires an ability to articulate the basics of our faith. In this series, we are going to discuss some basic questions that may arise. This is to help reinforce our own faith and help prepare us to teach others as opportunities arise.

What Is the Bible?

- The Bible is the most well-known and well-preserved book of all time
- Believers in God recognize it as His word and those who reject it cannot ignore it – it is truly unique

The Bible Is the History of God's Dealings with Man

- It begins with God creating the world (Genesis 1:1) [we noticed this in the previous lesson] – this includes the creation of man (Genesis 1:26-27) who was made in God's image and has a special place in creation; the Old Testament is filled with God's dealings with men; it was recorded to give us hope (Romans 15:4)
- It tells of Jesus who died on the cross for our sins (Matthew 20:28) – points to hope for eternity (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

The Bible Is Inspired by God

- All Scripture is inspired (2 Timothy 3:16) – this is why the Bible is consistent, reliable, true, and without any real contradictions; even though it was written by 40 authors in 3 languages over about 1500 years
- This would not be possible if the Bible was made by man without divine guidance (2 Peter 1:20-21; cf. John 10:35)

The Bible's Theme Is Salvation

- God offers us salvation through His Son, and only in Him (Acts 4:12) – we are born again to a living hope (1 Peter 1:3); the seed by which we are born again is the word of God (1 Peter 1:23)
- Jesus has the words of eternal life (John 6:68) – His word shows us the way of salvation (Romans 1:16)

The Bible Is Our Standard

- The word of God will judge us in the last day (John 12:48) – we need to be ready for this; we will each stand before the Lord to give an account for what we have done (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- The word of God is even able to judge our thoughts and intentions (Hebrews 4:12-13) – nothing is hidden; applies to every part of our lives

Conclusion

- So what is the Bible? – it is the inspired word of God that shows us how to be saved and what standard to follow
- Let's make sure we are following the word of God so we can be saved by Him