

Thy Word is a Lamp unto My Feet Lesson 4 2Q 2007

The Bible is Reliable

How many believe the Bible is reliable?

Why?

What does it mean to be reliable? Does that mean it is inerrant? Does it mean it is infallible?

Are there any passages from the Bible which trouble you?

DT 14:22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. ²³ Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. ²⁴ But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away), ²⁵ then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose. ²⁶ Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice.

Is the Scripture reliable here? Should we follow this instruction and use our tithe to buy fermented wine and celebrate in church each week?

How do you handle the examples of mistakes or conflicts in the Bible?

When two people witness the same event and write down their recollection and report of what they witnessed, will their report match in every detail? If it does what does that indicate? They fabricated the stories – why?

People observe events from different vantage points and because of this will emphasize different aspects or even describe different experiences. The old analogy of the blind men and the elephant – but from my life experience I remember seeing a funny glow or light on a particular wall in our home and asking Christie to look at it and what did she think it was – she said she didn't know what I was talking about and for a few

seconds we went back and forth trying to convince the other then I went over and picked Christie up so she could see from my perspective and then she could see it. When I stooped to her level I could no longer see it.

When we find the gospel writers describing events and varying on some details this only adds to the credibility and reliability of the Bible.

What is the Bible infallible about? The truth about God that it reveals WHEN RIGHTLY UNDERSTOOD.

What are essential principles of Bible study in order to get the right picture of God in addition to studying with the enlightenment of the HS? Taking all 66 books together – not leaving anything out. No matter how difficult a certain passage we must include it in our understanding and then all the passages must be blended together into a cohesive whole. AND what does the Bible actually say, what does it mean – what is the context in which it was said.

I had someone recently ask me if the Bible was reliable for treating patients with mental illness – any thoughts?

Read the key thought – thoughts?

What is another word for trust – faith – and what is the question rightly suggesting our trust and faith are based on? Evidence!

What evidence has the Bible given us that increases our trust/faith in God?

1. Answers questions of origins
2. Reveals the true character of God
3. Reveals the origins of pain, suffering and death
4. Reveals God remedy and healing solution

Read memory text – thoughts?

What does it mean to be sanctified? How does truth sanctify? What is it that infects and destroys our minds? Lies and lies about what? How can a lie change us? Any examples?

Then how does the truth heal?

The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be

found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself. {DA 671.1}

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? What is the plan of salvation? I heard on Easter Sunday on a Christian radio station that Christ came to earth to be “punished for our sins, for your sins and my sins” and if we accept Him and the price He paid we can be saved.

Thoughts?

Read second paragraph “Many have been his...” thoughts? Is higher criticism the only method to undermine confidence in the scriptures? What is another method – maybe even more effective and common than higher criticism?

How about when we tell people that the Bible teaches things that are non-sense – when we misrepresent God with teachings we claim come from the Bible? When we use the Bible as a reason to abuse others, northern Ireland and the protestant and catholic conflicts, Christians who shoot abortions doctors, Christians who attack homosexuals, or want to legislate their values upon everyone- if they claim all this comes from the Bible, will the Bible be valued or devalued by those who have never read it?

Just as Satan’s strategy has been to misrepresent God so people won’t trust Him, so too, has Satan sought to misrepresent the teachings of the Bible so people won’t trust the it and the truths revealed there.

Read last two paragraphs – thoughts? First, is it sensible to believe some document because the document itself tells us it is reliable? No! What about the idea that we have reasons to believe the Bible but in the end we don’t go by the reasons we go by faith?

MONDAY

Go around the room and read one paragraph each through the day- everyone familiar with these historical facts?

TUESDAY

How did the Bible as we know it come to be? The lesson tells how the Bible is accurate because of the manuscripts we have found and also because of the outside sources that quote it. Read last paragraph, thoughts?

I was in Philadelphia two weeks ago and someone mentioned the Da Vinci code and the idea that Mary Magdala was not a prostitute but was one of Jesus disciples and wrote one of the gospels along with several other of Christ's disciples but that the church wanted to denigrate women so they chose to misrepresent Mary as a prostitute and leave out the other gospels so that women would be controlled and dominated by men. Thoughts?

Does it make Christ better or worse for Mary to have been a prostitute? Better, why? What did Christ reveal in His treatment of Mary? His grace, goodness, and that sinful acts are not the focus of God but the condition of the heart and Christ came to heal and restore us all. Also, that God does not stand toward the sinner as the one who condemns.

The Davinci code is a subtle attack because on the surface it looks like a good thing in that it suggests Jesus valued women more than the church and the church attacked women to repress them. But in actuality it undermines God's grace in that it would move Christ away from associating with the "worst" of sinners and teaches that Christ was not as gracious and loving and forgiving as He really was!

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY

The resurrection – can the Bible be trusted on its report regarding the resurrection? Why?

Do we have understanding from science that makes the idea of a resurrection less and less difficult to understand?

If we understand it, does that make it less important? Would it undermine our confidence in God?

FRIDAY – Question 2 read and discuss