“How to Be a Big Picture Christian”

2 Peter 1:19-21

There is no question as to the Bible’s place as being foundational in Christianity

What we believe about Scripture is vitally important

Is the Word of God reliable, trustworthy?

Peter answers this with an affirmative “yes!”

The Bible itself is a light to our feet and a guide to our path, Psalm 119:105

Without Scripture we’re left in darkness regarding life’s true origin, purpose and future destiny

Scripture alone speaks specifically, convincingly to life’s greatest mysteries, e.g. why there is so much evil and suffering in the world, what is the origin of everything, why does anything exist and for what ultimate purpose, and is there truly such a thing as immortality?

Everything will become clear when Christ finally appears

There will be a perfect understanding, complete clarity

“Parousia” = “The future appearing of Jesus Christ”

1 Corinthians 13:12: “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”

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Let’s become students within Bibliology class

What is it we believe about Scripture?

Verbal, Plenary Inspiration (Blue Letter Bible)

1. Verbal Means Every Word

Verbal inspiration means that every word of Scripture is God-given. The idea is that every single word in the Bible is there because God wanted it to be there. There’s no exceptions.

1. Plenary Means Fully Authoritative

Plenary means that “all parts” of the Bible are divinely authoritative. This includes such things as the genealogies of the Old Testament. All parts of the Bible are of divine origin.

1. Inspiration Means a Supernatural Source

Inspiration can be applied when referencing human creativity or artistic expression. However, with regard to Scripture, it means God was its primary source and initiator. It’s a divine book.

Scripture itself has a higher authoritative ranking than personal, subjective experiences

No part of Scripture came into reality independent of God’s primary involvement

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Every single prophecy was written because God wanted it recorded within Scripture

The Word of God is timeless, universal

Because God is eternal, His word is also eternal

Psalm 119:89: “Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens”

Because God is omnipresent, His Word holds equal relevance anywhere within the universe

Nothing can be outside God’s jurisdiction since He is everywhere present

Thus, anywhere one stands upon the earth, God is there and His divine principles have total prerogative over human opinions

Therefore, Scripture has unchangeable, immediate authority and relevance in every generation

As such, cultural beliefs don’t supersede Scriptural principles, no matter how far advanced society becomes intellectually and technologically

We cannot go into Scripture, highlight and delete the parts we do not agree with as we would with a computer document

This, of course, is happening with greater frequency today, even amongst people claiming to be Christians

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What are some current examples?

Supporting and promoting same sex marriage

There’s a much greater push toward accepting universalism

Upholding abortion and euthanasia as being appropriate moral choices

However, the origin of Scripture and what it teaches regarding these significant matters never came about only through spontaneous, human initiative

The writers were only instruments of God’s revelation

No, they were no mindless robots

He used their personalities, unique writing styles and present circumstances in shaping precisely what He wanted to be verbally communicated and then written down in Scripture

Peter substantiates this in verse 21

They were carried along, like the wind blowing into the sails on a boat, by the Holy Spirit

Read text note, “The MacArthur Study Bible,” p. 1954

Today, even for some Christians, social media, not the inspired Scripture, is becoming people’s “go to” source for truth

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Why is this happening?

Radical news platforms and personal opinions are easily accessible, at a moment’s notice

A person, group or movement can formulate “their truth” and then disseminate it to literally multi-millions within seconds

This is why conspiracy theorists have such prominence and influence like no other time in history

Here is but one example how this is presently happening amongst many professing Christians

The universal vaccines are injecting a chip into people which is most certainly the mark of the beast the apostle John writes about in Revelation

Is this actually true?

How instead should we be permitting Scripture to inform and guide us on this?

2 Peter 3:10-14 gives us the answer

We need to anchor our lives more than ever before in the Word of God

Scripture gives us clear guidance for right now and great hope for what’s yet to come