

BIBLICAL RESPONSES TO LIFE'S QUESTIONS .

TODAY'S QUESTION IS....

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHAT YOU SHOULD BELIEVE ABOUT GOD, SPIRITUAL THINGS AND LIFE?

IMPLICATIONS OF A WRONG BELIEF:

Consider the consequences of believing: WHAT IF YOU BELIEVED...

- a. You can hold your breath under deep water longer than you can.***
- b. You do not have to obey the speed limits.***
- c. You can drink arsenic with no repercussions***
- d. You can get a T-bone steak at Chick-fil-A.***
- e. You don't need experience to pack a parachute.***
- f. That fire is not hot.***
- g. Jesus is not the only way of salvation.***

You Get the idea.... beliefs have consequences and those consequences can range from simply being wrong about a fact which produces no measurable repercussions, up to being wrong about the way of salvation where it has the worst of all consequences, ... ending up in hell for all of eternity!

I'm going to give you 7 PRINCIPLES that you will want to use to help you answer that question.

Yes, there are numerous more that could be added, but given the length of this video, these are, without question, 7 of the most important!

PRINCIPLE #1:

1. Let the Scripture be your final authority as to all things pertaining to God, spiritual things, Christian doctrine, and the purpose of life.

Remember, everybody has an opinion, but every opinion is not of equal value. The Scripture is clear that ...

Pro 16:25 NKJV

(25) There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Why do we want Scripture to be our final authority? It is clear

1Pe 1:24 because "ALL FLESH IS AS GRASS, AND ALL THE GLORY OF MAN AS THE FLOWER OF THE GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND ITS FLOWER FALLS AWAY,

1Pe 1:25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Isa 8:20 NKJV

(20) To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Joh 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

2Ti 3:16-17 NKJV

(16) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

I want you to consider the pattern set by Jesus when correcting the false teaching of the Pharisees and others, **his correction always involved asking them if they were unaware of what the Scriptures taught, clearly revealing that false doctrine is rooted in the IGNORANCE of THE SCRIPTURES!**

Mat 12:1-4 NKJV

(1) At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

(2) And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

(3) But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:

Mat 12:4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?

He continued in verse 5

Mat 12:5 NASB

(5) **"Or have you not read in the Law,** that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent?

Mat 12:7 But if you had known what *this* means, 'I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

Num 28:9 'And on the Sabbath day two lambs in their first year, without blemish, and two-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, with its drink offering—

Num 28:10 this is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, besides the regular burnt offering with its drink offering.

Mat 19:4 NASB

(4) And He answered and said, "**Have you not read** that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,

Mat 22:29 NKJV

(29) Jesus answered and said to them (the Sadducees), "**You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures** nor the power of God.

Mat 22:31-32 NASB

(31) "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, **have you (Sadducees) not read what was spoken to you by God:**

(32) 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

Mar 12:10 NASB

(10) "**Have you (i.e. the chief priests and the scribes and the elders) not even read this Scripture:** 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone;

So again, in each of these rebukes the answer to Jesus's questions was most assuredly "yes", they READ the scriptures He was referring to, and Jesus knew they had; but what He was pointing out was that their failure to "hear" or rightly interpret what the Scripture was actually teaching resulted in them becoming the purveyors of false doctrines. And again as I stated earlier the significance of these passages as pertaining to Principle 1, is that the responses of Christ,... when correcting the false teaching of the Pharisees and others, **his correction always involved him asking them if they had read what the Scriptures taught, or he simply stated they were wrong because they did not know the Scriptures!**

Again, clearly revealing that false doctrine is rooted in the **IGNORANCE** of THE SCRIPTURES!

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHAT YOU SHOULD BELIEVE ABOUT GOD, SPIRITUAL THINGS AND LIFE?

Start with.

PRINCIPLE #1:

1. Let the Scripture be your final authority as to all things pertaining to God, spiritual things, Christian doctrine, and the purpose of life.

Now, before moving on to Principle 2, it is necessary that I point out ***that the full significance and benefit of Principle 1 can only understood and achieved as it combined with the remaining principles.***

Let's look at...

PRINCIPLE #2:

2. Seek to diligently eliminate/minimize commentary! ALWAYS prefer to let the Scripture speak for itself. Don't try to make the case for a belief, let the Scripture make its own case.

Let me point out that if any of you have downloaded my book "THE FIGHT" or if you listen to any of my teachings you will know that I always seek to practice this Principle and in so doing, I will minimize my commentary sometimes to the chagrin of those I teach. I am of the mindset that your likelihood of being wrong about a doctrine is in direct relation to the amount of commentary you need to make your case. The more commentary, the more likely you are to be wrong. The less commentary NEEDED to make your point, the more likely you are right or at least on the right path! I am absolutely convinced that the vast majority of Biblical doctrine is soundly revealed and sufficiently proven by the text of Scripture alone apart from any commentary or at least very minimal commentary.

Mat 12:36 NKJV

(36) But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

If this verse doesn't motivate you to minimize your commentary, I don't know what would.

Deu 12:32 "Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.

This perfectly leads us to our next principle

PRINCIPLE #3:

3. Don't go beyond (i.e., add to) what is taught in the Scripture, and do not reject (i.e., take away from) what is taught in the Scripture.

You may have noticed this 3rd principle which in some ways is similar to Principle 2 but the differences are significant enough to add Principle 3.

Pro 30:6 NKJV

(6) Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Deu 4:1-2 NASB

(1) "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

(2) "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deu 12:32 "Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.

Understand that when it says, "you shall not add to the word", this doesn't refer to adding words to the Scriptures like what was done in the development of the KJV. You probably already know that the words that the translators added are the words you see in italics. These were added to make the meaning of a sentence clearer or to make the text more readable ***without altering the meaning.***

Likewise, the passages in Deuteronomy that warn us not to "take away" from the word of God, these scriptures ***are not referring to removing words that manuscript evidence reveals were a later addition to the text and not part of the original writings.*** Rather, it refers to *altering and/or teaching the text of Scripture in a way that subtracts from God breathed biblical truth.*

The writers of the New Testament often document Jesus and the disciples giving partial quotes of the Old Testament. The fact that they left out part of what was written, even if the part left out made up the majority of the passage being quoted, this does not allow for critics to say the writer is changing the Word of God by subtracting from it. If this were the case, you would have to quote the entire Bible every single time you gave any quote! So again, as I stated a moment ago, it refers to *altering and/or teaching the text of Scripture in a way that adds or subtracts from God breathed biblical truth.* As you will see in a moment, The violation of Principle 4 will often be a steppingstone that leads to the violation of Principle 3.

So again...

requoting PRINCIPLE #3:

3. Don't go beyond (i.e., add to) what is taught in the Scripture, and don't reject (i.e. take away from) what is taught in the Scripture.

next...

PRINCIPLE #4:

4. When it seems that two "contrary" truths are clearly being taught by the Scripture, do not reject either of them; instead, seek to reconcile them through research and prayer. If you are unable to reconcile them, teach both. Admit you know they are both true, but at the present time you are not certain how to reconcile them, and leave the paradox to God rather than also violating Principle 3 and "subtract" from God breathed biblical truth and commit sin.

The failure to practice this principle was the root cause of the false beliefs of the Pharisees as I demonstrated earlier when discussing Principle 1. The reason I quoted the verses under Principle 1 was to FIRST show you how Jesus, our Lord and Judge, who not only knows the truth but, IS THE TRUTH clearly demonstrated that **false conclusions or beliefs** about God, spiritual things, Christian doctrine, and the purpose of life are ROOTED IN a person's IGNORANCE OR REJECTION OF the Word of God!

So, remember, the Pharisees rejected or ignored the Scriptures showing that David's men were guiltless when breaking the Sabbath by plucking grain and eating it on the Sabbath, as were the priests guiltless for offering sacrifices on the Sabbath (Num 28:9-10).

Yet, knowing with certainty that the Pharisees had read all of these verses probably thousands of times, revealing that they clearly violated this principle, PRINCIPLE 4, when they simply rejected or ignored the teaching and or the implications of these passages because they were not able to reconcile them. The result was, what they believed to be true, WAS NOT and it resulted in them unjustly CONDEMNING THE INNOCENT!!

Mat 12:7 But if you had known what *this* means, 'I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

You should also know that the violation of this principle has numerous times led to the formation of multiple false religions and false doctrines. Examples of this are Jehovah Witnesses, Apostolic Pentecostals, Unitarians, plus many others

Each of these groups found themselves unable to reconcile how you can have 3 persons in the Godhead but yet have only one God, they simply chose to reject the plethora of Scriptures that irrefutably establish the doctrine of the Trinity, violating Principle 4, which as stated earlier, also led to violating Principle 3 in subtracting doctrinal truth from the Word of God and thus committing grievous sin.

In doing this, each of these groups began to teach a false theology in spite of the fact that the doctrine of the Trinity is demanded by the revelation of Scripture, as each of them would have learned had they followed the principles being presented here. But to the contrary, their example reveals an infinitely dangerous way to establish your beliefs that will result in horrific eternal consequences!

so again,**PRINCIPLE #4:**

4. When it seems that two "contrary" truths are clearly being taught by the Scripture, do not reject either of them; instead, seek to reconcile them through research and prayer. **If you are unable to reconcile them, teach both.** Admit you know they are both true, but at the present time you are not certain how to reconcile them and leave the paradox to God rather than also violating Principle 3 and "subtract" from God breathed biblical truth and commit sin.

Moving on to ...

PRINCIPLE #5

5. Don't let individual obscure passages refute doctrinal conclusions that are soundly established by multiple other clear passages. For example:

Mormons, who as most of you know, provide scores of examples where they take both obscure passages and even very clear passages and simply reject what is taught and focus on a method of interpretation that simply allows them to interpret a passage in a manner that they feel will support Mormonism.

1Co 15:29 is a perfect example.

1Co 15:29 Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them?

They interpret this passage in a manner that allows other Mormons to get baptized for people that have already died. This will allow the deceased non-Mormon a chance to become a Mormon and change his or her eternal destiny.

Though I am not going into detail about this passage at the moment, most of you are probably very aware the Mormon teaching on this is clearly an unbiblical view of baptism; and even though Christians may struggle at how to rightly understand this passage; yet, the amount of Scripture that refutes the Mormon interpretation is so overwhelming that under no circumstance would it allow for such a dangerously false interpretation of this passage.

So again,

PRINCIPLE #5

5. Don't let individual obscure passages refute doctrinal conclusions that are soundly established by multiple other clear passages.

PRINCIPLE #6

6. Study all the scriptures presented by those who teach something contrary to what you teach. Make sure that those passages do not refute or contradict your position without forcing them to say something they clearly do not say. While you are doing this, be certain to adhere to Principle 2 and Principle 3!

requoting PRINCIPLE #2:

2. Seek to diligently eliminate/minimize commentary! ALWAYS prefer to let the Scripture speak for itself. Don't try to make the case for a belief, let the Scripture make its own case.

requoting PRINCIPLE #3:

3. Don't go beyond (i.e., add to) what is taught in the Scripture, and don't reject (i.e. take away from) what is taught in the Scripture.

When I first put this teaching together I was not going to give this next example knowing that I will need to cover it in far more depth in the future and it may open a discussion that I don't have time to address at the moment, yet I feel it is important to give at least one very clear example of a serious violation of this principle.

It is a violation that results in adopting a false belief with very serious consequences. The belief is known as "cessationism" and those who hold to this belief in one degree or another are often referred to as "cessationists".

For now, I will simply go on record claiming that I can easily present dozens of very clear passages that support the contrary case ,... sometimes referred to as "continuationism". For those who disagree with my "belief", I would simply respond,...

"Using the principles I give here, specifically PRINCIPLE 1, 2,3, 5, AND this principle, PRINCIPLE 6, attempt to make your case. If you feel you can make a case while holding to these principles, I would absolutely love to see it!"

If I am able to find the time sometime in the near future, with God's grace, I will attempt to present my case SOLELY by letting the Scripture speak. I believe there is, relative to other doctrines, such a massive amount of Scripture that refutes the cessationist position, that I could probably make the case without a single word of commentary! I could simply let the Scripture alone make the case. Again, God willing, I will address this issue in detail sometime in the near future.

so again...

Principle 6

6. Study all the scriptures presented by those who teach something contrary to what you teach. Make sure that those passages do not refute or contradict your position without forcing them to say something they clearly do not say. While you are doing this, be certain to adhere to Principle 2 and Principle 3!

PRINCIPLE #7

7. When the Scripture is silent on a specific issue or its teaching does not encompass a topic sufficiently enough to clearly establish a biblical position...

1. Let biblical principle prevail.
2. Let any decision or action line up with both biblical principle and your conscience. Never forge ahead with a belief or an action that will wound your conscience.

Rom 14:21-23 NKJV

(21) It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

(22) Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

(23) But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

Pro 4:23 NKJV

(23) Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

BENEFITS OF FOLLOWING THESE PRINCIPLES:

1. It is God's answer to producing the strongest degree of unity in a church, a marriage, and a family.

1Co 1:10 NKJV

(10) Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

2. It drastically reduces your susceptibility of being led into false doctrine because your faith is soundly established upon the word of God!

3. Helps strengthen your peace and confidence when you stand before Christ and have to give an account for what you believed and/or taught others.

4. In connection to the benefit just stated, consider this thought, it is highly likely that as you pass these PRINCIPLES on to other Christians which includes those persons that closest to you, maybe a spouse or your children, etc., you are most likely giving them the most beneficial instruction regarding their pursuit of God and the Scriptures that they will ever receive from anyone! After all, like you, they will also have to give an account for what they have done and taught. Following these PRINCIPLES, because of the fact that your faith will have been clearly founded upon the unshakable, infinitely powerful, everlasting word of the Almighty God, they will also gain the Benefit 3!

By Eric Lounsbery at: runtothefight.org See the VIDEO of this message at the YouTube channel: Run to The Fight