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Introduction

This pamphlet/book is actually parts taken from a larger write up about biblical teaching regarding government. It was copied out because some just want to see this material.

There are 2 major views on interpreting the bible. Liberals tend to believe:

1. The bible sometimes contradicts itself
2. The bible is sometimes inaccurate because it is not reasonable to believe what is in it is correct
3. The miracles in the bible can be explained by natural phenomena, or never really happened

Conservatives disagree with each of these points.

It may be helpful to write a little about how to interpret the Bible. There are a few guidelines one should follow.

Look At All Biblical Passages

First, remember that there can be multiple passages on a given topic. Sometimes the passages only talk about one aspect of an issue. So it is important to look at all passages related to a given topic.

2 Peter

001:020 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

001:021 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Notice in the above passage it states, “no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation”, meaning one must look at all passages on a topic to get a full meaning.

A doctrine must be consistent with all passages in the bible. Remember, it only takes 1 bible verse to make a doctrine false. The following is an example how Jesus used 1 word in one sentence to disprove a doctrine.

Matthew

022:023 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

022:024 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

022:025 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

022:026 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

022:027 And last of all the woman died also.

022:028 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

022:029 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

022:030 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

022:031 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

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022:032 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Bible Does Not Contradict Itself

Second, it is important to remember that the bible does not contradict itself. Once again, look at the above passage (2 Peter 1:20-21). Bible passages fit together like a jig saw puzzle. You cannot force any piece, you cannot reshape any piece, and you cannot throw any piece away. So if you think they contradict, look for an interpretation where they do not. This is not always easy. When you have trouble, pray about it. Sometimes God will give the answer after a long period of time has passed.

Notice the following passage.

Numbers

023:019 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Since God cannot lie, He cannot contradict Himself.

Let's use the following verses discussing divorce to illustrate this point.

Leviticus

020:010 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Deuteronomy

024:001 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.

024:002 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

024:003 And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife;

024:004 Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Matthew

019:003 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

019:004 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

019:005 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

019:006 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

019:007 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

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019:008 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

019:009 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

There is much more teaching on this topic than just these 3 passages. But they are included here as an example of what some say is a contradiction in the bible. Because why would one passage say adulterers should die and others say you can get divorced instead.

One commentator said the Deuteronomy passage does not refer to adultery because adulterers were to be killed. But Jesus in Matthew refers to the passage as referring to adultery. So how does this all fit together?

Since the bible cannot contradict itself, one must search for an explanation that fits the pieces. To do this, it is sometimes helpful to look at the cultural setting in which it was spoken. The passage in Leviticus is part of the Mosaic Law and was meant for Israel. But how does the passage in Deuteronomy fit in if it is referring to adultery? I think the Philippines can be used as example of the culture. Remember, local Philippine governments sometimes pass laws that are different from national laws. In some areas of the Philippines, if you are married and have a child with someone who is not your spouse, you will go to jail if your spouse reports/complains about it. This is not as severe as the death penalty. But it is a severe penalty for cheating. However, few cheaters are sent to jail for this reason. This is because the spouse and children usually do not want to see that person go to jail. So they usually just separate. (They rarely divorce because it is expensive.) I suspect that people in Moses time felt the same. I suspect that is the reason why the Deuteronomy passage is phrased that way, to avoid actually using the word 'adultery'.

There is one additional problem for the victim. It may be difficult to prove their spouse cheated. Back then, there were no paternity tests, no cameras. So it may have been hard proving adultery even if a person knows it. So that is another reason why the passage in Deuteronomy may have been given.

There is another example under the topic Slavery.

There are also some other possible reasons for what appear to be discrepancies. For example, some accounts in the gospels seem to conflict. However, those accounts may be talking of different events. For example, during a presidential campaign, a candidate will talk on the same subjects multiple times. During Jesus's 3 year ministry, He probably did the same thing.

The bible never contradicts itself. If one thinks it does, then they have a wrong interpretation/doctrine.

Some have criticized Christians which list several bible verses to support doctrine. The critics call it a mish-mash of bible verses. That criticism is wrong because a doctrine cannot conflict with any part of the bible. If it does, it is a wrong doctrine.

Bible Is Inerrant, Is Inspired By God

The bible is inerrant and the bible contains all we need for salvation as is written

2 Timothy

003:016 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

003:017 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

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Remember, God is holy and does not lie. Since all scripture is given by inspiration of God, it can be trusted. We may have trouble interpreting the meaning of a passage, but the passage itself is real and trustworthy. The following passage supports this.

2 Peter

001:016 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

And again

2 Peter

001:020 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

001:021 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

And

Numbers

012:006 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

012:007 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

012:008 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

And the scriptures are infallible.

Matthew

022:029 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

In this last passage, Jesus is saying they erred because they did not know the scriptures. The following passage is part of a prayer Jesus spoke

John

017:017 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Remember, the bible is God's word. God is holy and does not lie.

Mark

010:018 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

Numbers

023:019 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

1 Samuel

015:029 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.

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Hebrews

006:018 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Also, the bible's teaching remains relevant and does not become obsolete.

Matthew

005:017 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

005:018 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

And the teaching of the bible is from God, and not man.

1 Corinthians

002:012 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

002:013 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

And all of scripture is important

Matthew

004:004 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

And because it is God's word, it must be fulfilled.

Matthew

026:054 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

Regarding miracles, it should be noted that people who saw Jesus perform them never denied they were miracles. Instead, notice how some religious leaders tried to dismiss them.

Matthew

012:022 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.

012:023 And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?

012:024 But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.

So we know that that the bible is a sure foundation, and anything that contradicts its teachings are false. There can be errors in translations to other languages. But the original texts are sure.

Writers of the Bible Wrote What God Wanted, Not What They Wanted

There seems to be a false belief among some that the writers of the bible simply wrote what they wanted. This is not true. Notice the following passage from Jude.

Jude

001:003 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

001:004 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Newer translations like the NIV make the reading easier to understand. What Jude said in verse 3 is that although he wanted to write about the common salvation, he felt a driving need to write about something else.

Accuracy of Copies

Some have claimed that errors were introduced into the original Hebrew and Greek texts as they were copied and recopied. Yes, there may be a verse or two which were dropped from a copy. But scholars say that only about 1 in 90 words are different among the copies, and the differences are minor – like the difference between but and whereas.

Yes, some modern English ‘translations’ are actually ‘interpretations’. Some have written ‘modern’ versions of the bible by converting the KJV bible into more modern English, since the trusted KJV was first published in 1611. However, many versions of the bible, like the KJV, NIV, and NKJV, were translated from the best ancient Greek and Hebrew texts.

Accuracy of Translations

Some have claimed errors crept into the bible as it was translated from one language to another. And they claim that this repeated process has caused many errors in the bible. This claim brings up 2 points. One is the accuracy of the translation from the original Hebrew and Greek texts. The other is translation of the bible from another language other than the original Hebrew and Greek.

One of challenges translators have is that there is sometimes no word in the translated language that exactly matches the word in the original Hebrew or Greek. So, they choose a word or phrase that most closely matches the original. For example, the Hebrew word for ‘virgin’ is the same as the Hebrew word for ‘young lady’. (At that time, a woman was not considered a ‘young woman’ unless they were still a virgin.) Another is the Hebrew word for ‘servant’ is the same as the Hebrew word for ‘slave’. One must tell from the context which is meant.

Over time, the meanings of some words may change slightly. So, for example, the older KJV translation uses the word ‘repent’ in some places where the newer NIV uses the word ‘relent’.

Another challenge is that the syntax of a language may be different. Another example is that a common custom 4000 years ago may sound very strange today. So some translators, right or wrong, try translating the idea rather than the exact words.

But there is one criticism of the bible that is false. Some claim that today’s bibles, such as the KJV and NIV, were translations of translations of translations and therefore are filled with translation errors. That is false. These versions, as well as some others, were created by translating from the original Hebrew and Greek texts, not from some other language.

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Now there are some different Greek and Hebrew texts. Generally, translators prefer the oldest texts because there is less chance of an error when the copy was made. But the texts, being on old scrolls, may have parts which are missing. Therefore, scholars have created complete copies of the Old and New Testaments in the original Hebrew and Greek. Then others translate from them. There are different versions of these Greek and Hebrew texts because of difference in opinion on what were the best originals. But as mentioned before, only about 1 in 90 words are different in the original texts and the differences are minor, like the difference between 'but' and 'however'.

Small Words Matter

One must read each word of the bible very carefully because even the tense (past, present, future) can teach us something about God and us. For example, notice the word "am" in the following passage and how important it is in the teaching of life after physical death.

Matthew

022:023 The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,

022:024 Saying, Master, Moses said, If a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

022:025 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

022:026 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

022:027 And last of all the woman died also.

022:028 Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.

022:029 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

022:030 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.

022:031 But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying,

022:032 I **am** the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

In the same way, consider the following passage and what it implies about when human life begins.

Luke

001:013 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

001:014 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

001:015 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

Newer translations use phrases like 'even before he is born'. So, what does this say or imply about the beginning of life? Small words matter.

Reliability of Bible Copies

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Some have questioned the accuracy of the bible as it was copied over the centuries. Remember, the printing press was invented in 1440. Prior to that, books had to be copied by hand. Some have questioned how many errors may have crept in during that process. Some others have claimed people may have intentionally introduced errors.

There are actually over 5000 ancient copies of the Greek New Testament. The earliest copy that contains most of the New Testament is from 350AD, and there are fragments even earlier than that. If one compares the ancient texts, only about 1 word in 90 is different and those differences do not affect the meaning of the passage. These are minor differences, like the difference between 'but' and 'however'.

There are a total of over 15,000 ancient copies of the New Testament in various languages. But since the New Testament was written in Greek, it is from the ancient Greek texts that the bible is translated.

Similarly, when Jewish scholars copied the Old Testament, they were required to re-write a 2 page segment if they made any error copying it. This insured its reliability. And if one compares the Dead Seas copy of Isaiah with the next oldest copy, which is from about 900AD, there are virtually no differences and the differences which exist are not significant.

False Teachers

There are a lot of false teachers in the world and the bible even warns us about them. Notice the following passage.

1 John

004:001 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

004:002 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

004:003 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

So, this seems that any group that claims to believe in Jesus 'is of God'. But one must determine exactly what they believe. For example, some have claimed that Jesus did not perform miracles. Some claim Jesus was only human. Others claim Jesus only staged His death and resurrection. Some, like the Mormons, even believe Jesus was created by God (which conflicts with Micah 5:2, John 1:1-3, Isaiah 43:10). And they try to justify their beliefs by cherry picking bible verses and falsely claiming the bible is flawed. So, it is important to know exactly what they believe and if it conflicts with what the bible says about Jesus.

This is nothing new. See what Paul wrote in the first century to the Galatians.

Galatians

001:006 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

001:007 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

001:008 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

001:009 As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

001:010 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

001:011 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

001:012 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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And Paul issued a similar warning to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians

- 011:002 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
- 011:003 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- 011:004 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.
- 011:005 For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.
- 011:006 But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.
- 011:007 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?
- 011:008 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.
- 011:009 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.
- 011:010 As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia.
- 011:011 Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.
- 011:012 But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.
- 011:013 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
- 011:014 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
- 011:015 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

This is why it is important for us to 'try every spirit'. Is the preacher a born-again, Spirit filled believer, who holds to the inerrancy of the Bible. If person is a born again believer, that preacher will speak to their heart and the listener will be lead in their heart to know whether the preacher is speaking truth. Notice what Jesus said regarding born-again believers in the last days.

Matthew

- 024:021 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- 024:022 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.
- 024:023 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.
- 024:024 **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**
- 024:025 Behold, I have told you before.
- 024:026 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.
- 024:027 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Non-Spirit Filled, Secular Scholars

Just because someone is a scholar, has a doctorate, or wrote a book does not mean they know anything. So who cares about anything a secular scholar has to say about the bible? Anyone scholar who is not born-again, Spirit filled, is a blind guide. Notice what Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees who were the 'scholars' of that day.

Matthew

023:013 **But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

023:014 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

023:015 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

023:016 **Woe unto you, ye blind guides,** which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!

023:017 **Ye fools and blind:** for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

023:018 And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.

023:019 **Ye fools and blind:** for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

023:020 Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.

023:021 And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.

023:022 And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.

023:023 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

023:024 **Ye blind guides,** which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

023:025 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

023:026 **Thou blind Pharisee,** cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

023:027 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

023:028 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

023:029 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

023:030 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

023:031 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

023:032 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

023:033 **Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers,** how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

023:034 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

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023:035 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

023:036 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

023:037 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

023:038 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

023:039 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Matthew

015:012 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

015:013 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

015:014 Let them alone: **they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.**

Same is true today. Why will those born-again believers not be deceived? Because they are led by the Spirit of God.

John

016:013 **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

John

010:027 **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:**

Romans

008:014 **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

1 Corinthians

002:001 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

002:002 **For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**

002:003 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

002:004 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

002:005 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

002:006 **Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:**

002:007 **But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:**

002:008 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

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Inerrancy of Bible 1.0

- 002:010 **But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.**
- 002:011 **For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.**
- 002:012 **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.**
- 002:013 **Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**
- 002:014 **But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**
- 002:015 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.
- 002:016 **For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ**

Christianity Is Foolishness To The Wise

1 Corinthians

- 001:017 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.
- 001:018 **For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**
- 001:019 **For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.**
- 001:020 **Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?**
- 001:021 **For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**
- 001:022 **For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:**
- 001:023 **But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;**
- 001:024 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
- 001:025 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
- 001:026 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:
- 001:027 **But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;**
- 001:028 **And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:**
- 001:029 **That no flesh should glory in his presence.**
- 001:030 **But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**
- 001:031 **That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.**

Sin of Unbelief – Not Believing God's Word

Inerrancy of Bible 1.0

Genesis

- 003:001 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
- 003:002 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
- 003:003 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
- 003:004 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
- 003:005 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
- 003:006 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.
- 003:007 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

It all comes back to this first sin of Eve – not believing God. There are people who claim there are errors in the bible. They have different reasons for this statement. Some claim errors in translation or copying the bible. Some claim there are errors because sinful humans wrote the bible. Some claim the bible has contradictions. But it all comes back to not believing God – the same sin as Eve.

There are books on the topic of bible contradictions and errors and some are written by true Christians who point out the flaws in arguments that the bible has errors. This writer suggests that those who are interested in this subject, look for those books, written by Christians, who explain the flawed logic.

Those who argue there are errors in the bible also do not understand what it is to be born again, as John writes,

1 John

- 001:006 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

The Bible Is A Closed Book To Some

When studying the Bible, two things are needed. First is having a heart that desires God. The second is to be open to accept what the Bible teaches. There are many people who like to follow the rituals of the church without having any real desire for God. And there are many people who believe what they want to believe and try to understand the Bible bases on what they want to believe. The Bible warns against this.

In the following passage, God warns us that without a desire for Him, the Bible is not understood.

Isaiah

- 029:010 For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.
- 029:011 And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:
- 029:012 And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

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029:013 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

The other problem is that people often believe what they want to believe. For example, some people refuse to believe there is a hell. So long as people believe what they want to believe, they will be blind to what the Bible teaches. In the following passage, God says that in 'that day' (which is the Great Tribulation period), there will be those who are spiritually deaf and blind will hear the words of the Bible and understand.

Isaiah

029:018 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

So what is the solution? How can the veil be taken away?

2 Corinthians

003:014 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.

003:015 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

003:016 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

The Bible is a Sealed/Incomprehensible Book To Some

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Notice in the above, they did not believe Jesus had risen from the dead, and so, they did not recognize Him as they walked along. Even after Jesus explained all the scriptures/prophecies regarding Himself, they did not recognize Him. It was not until later when 'their eyes were opened, and they knew him', implying it was God that opened their eyes. They had knowledge of the scriptures but did not recognize Him until later.

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001:013 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

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Why Science Mysteries

The bible is a book leading people to a saving faith and relationship with God. It is not a science book. For example, the entire creation story is summarized in just a few passages. Many people wish God had provided more information on this topic and others.

The following passage provides some insight on why there are mysteries in the bible.

Proverbs

025:002 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.

Why Spiritual Mysteries

God would like all people to repent and turn to Him.

2 Peter

003:008 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

003:009 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

So, God gives time for people to repent and turn to Him. However, God also gave people a free will and allows people to choose, and some will choose not to come to Him. So, was God not more explicit when giving His words to the prophets and Jesus's disciples? Why didn't God become more visible? Why didn't Jesus perform miracles for the entire world to see? Why did God make some of His teaching unknowable to non-believers? The following passage gives some insight.

Matthew

013:010 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

013:011 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

013:012 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

013:013 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

013:014 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

013:015 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

013:016 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

013:017 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

It must be remembered that the above verses are part of chapter 13 which contains the parable of the sower.

Verse 15 is written in sort of a mocking tone, noting that these people have closed their hearts, ears and eyes. They have closed them because they reject the God and His word. The term 'lest' here means 'because they do not want to' and said in a rather mocking tone. These are people who do not want to know God's ways or what is sin. As Jesus said in

John

003:016 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

003:017 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

003:018 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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003:019 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

003:020 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

Verse 14-15 are from the following passage in Isaiah. Once again in verse 10, Isaiah is told to preach God's words to them and it will cause them to make a decision to *turn to or from God*, and it is known this will cause them to harden their hearts and turn from God. Once again, in a rather mocking tone.

Isaiah

006:008 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

006:009 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

006:010 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Isaiah was being sent to the nation of Israel which turned its back on God and turned to idols. Isaiah was to teach God's way to them, making them accountable for their sins. God knew that thru teaching, the people would be forced to make a choice and that these people would reject Him and cause them to harden their hearts. When people are forced to make a choice, they 'harden' their hearts to the alternative which they reject. That, I believe, is the thought here. And the parable of the sower explains why people reject the scriptures. The problem is not with the scriptures. It is because of the soil – the people themselves. People who are 'good soil' will understand, or at least have the ability to understand in time with the Holy Spirit's guidance. For completeness, the entire passage in chapter 13 is included below.

Matthew

013:001 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

013:002 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

013:003 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

013:004 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

013:005 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

013:006 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

013:007 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

013:008 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

013:009 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

013:010 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

013:011 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

013:012 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

013:013 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

013:014 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

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013:015 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

013:016 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

013:017 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

013:018 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

013:019 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

013:020 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

013:021 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

013:022 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

013:023 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Now notice the next passage which is from Revelations. It is a message to the church of the Laodiceans.

Revelation

003:014 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

003:015 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

003:016 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

003:017 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

003:018 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

003:019 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

003:020 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

003:021 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

003:022 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Notice verses 15-16. If the church was 'hot', it would be a church filled with born again believers filled with the Holy Spirit. If it was a 'cold' church, it would be one which lacks teaching. So, this seems to be a church that had knowledge of the scriptures, but was not born again. And these can be some of the hardest people to reach. I do not know the details of this particular church.

But I have known some which are 'liberal Christians' and fit this description. They have the bible. But only teach portions that make people feel good. *And they reject portions they do not understand or do not like what they say. They falsely claim there are flaws, errors, or inconsistencies in scripture.* They have 'head faith' – that is, they know the scriptures. But they never opened their hearts to God/Jesus. These people can be the hardest people to reach because

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they think they know what the bible teaches. And because they think they know it all, they will not listen and turn their hearts towards God.

Sometimes too much biblical knowledge can cause people to be jaded or hardened to the bible. They have some head faith but no heart faith. They think they are wise but have never come to true faith.

This passage also reminds me of churches which are little more than social clubs. They only teach a few basic gospel passages in a year and then repeat them every year, not going into any depth. And the members mainly belong to these churches because they became social clubs.

I believe this further illustrates why some biblical teaching is 'hidden' to non-believers. There is a danger of people becoming 'jaded' or 'hardened' towards the bible. Some people may gain great knowledge of the bible without ever really being converted and in that way become 'jaded' or 'hardened against' the bible. Remember,

Romans

010:008 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

010:009 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

010:010 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Deuteronomy

004:029 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Faith is from the heart. People need to be drawn to God thru their hearts, not just their minds. They need the scriptures which will draw their hearts to Him.

Books Of Bible Chosen By The Holy Spirit

The bible that is used today contains 66 'books' – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

Some attack the bible questioning the books that were included in it. Some say there should be more, some less. Some pointed out that different churches accepted different books in the bible at different times. So how did the bible come to contain 66 books?

The Old Testament books were selected by Jewish scholars by the time of Jesus.

The New Testament books were written after Jesus's ascension around 29AD. Besides the divinely inspired book. Other, spurious books were written which were not divinely inspired. These caused heresies. Over time, it became clear to true Christians which were inspired and which were not. The Council of Rome in 382 came up with the list of divinely inspired books, including those in the New Testament.

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So how did the Christians know which were divinely inspired? In a similar way that God inspired them to be written in the first place.

All true, born-again Christians have the Holy Spirit in them. Some have a greater sensitivity to Him. Those who lead sinful lives may grieve the Holy Spirit and lose that closeness.

Notice what the bible say about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and how He leads.

Luke

012:012 **For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.**

John

010:025 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

010:026 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

010:027 **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:**

010:028 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

010:029 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

010:030 I and my Father are one.

John

014:016 **And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;**

014:017 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; **for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you**

John

014:023 **Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

014:024 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

014:025 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

014:026 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John

015:026 **But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:**

015:027 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

John

016:007 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

016:008 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

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016:009 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

016:010 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

016:011 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

016:012 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

016:013 **Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

016:014 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

016:015 **All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

Acts

001:005 For John truly baptized with water; **but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**

001:006 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

001:007 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

001:008 **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Romans

008:009 **But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

008:010 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

008:011 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

008:012 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

008:013 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

008:014 **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

008:015 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

008:016 **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**

Romans

008:026 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

008:027 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God

1 John

002:027 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

2 Corinthians

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013:014 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.
Amen

Martin Luther did not believe 3 books (Hebrews, James and Jude) did not belong in the bible because they seemed to contradict the bible's teaching in

Ephesians

002:008 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

002:009 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

because those books seemed to teach that people are saved by their good works (how they lived). However, he misunderstood what those books were saying. In fairness, probably every Christian and every great Christian scholar has misunderstood some passages. For example, look at the disagreement Christians have today about communion, the rapture, and the like.

Who Wrote the New Testament?

This writer accepts the traditional list of writers of the New Testament. However, some scholars disagree with the traditional list. This writer is not going to discuss the authorship of each of the books. Instead, this writer only wants to point out some of the logic errors of some scholars.

Some rejected the authorship of John to St John, claiming Acts 4:13 shows he was 'unlearned'.

Acts

004:001 **And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,**

004:002 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

004:003 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

004:004 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

004:005 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

004:006 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

004:007 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

004:008 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

004:009 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

004:010 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

004:011 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

004:012 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

004:013 **Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled;** and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

004:014 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

004:015 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

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004:016 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

It is clear that was the opinion of “the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees” because they did not have formal rabbinic education according to the customs and standards of that time. And noticed how they marveled, apparently because the apostles clearly were knowledgeable and intelligent. So, this is not conclusive proof John and Peter were unschooled.

So is there any evidence that St John wrote John? Well, Papias was the Bishop of Hierapolis and author who lived between about 60AD and 130AD. According to Professor Tischendorf, he saw a manuscript in the Vatican library with a quotation from Papias that St John was the author. Also, Clement of Alexandria, who lived from about 150AD to 215AD, wrote that John was persuaded by friends and motivated by the Holy Spirit to write a gospel. Clement was a Christian theologian who taught at the Catechetical School of Alexandria. So it seems likely St John wrote the gospel of his name.

Many of these same scholars also claim that Peter was not written by St Peter, for similar reasons. But notice the salutations at the beginning of 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

1 Peter

01:001 **Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,**

2 Peter

001:001 **Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:**

001:002 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

In both books, Peter clearly identifies himself as the author. Yes, it is possible that he dictated them to a scribe. Or he could have written them in his own hand. But it is clear that it is Peter the apostle who wrote them. Now there are scholars who say that the author was not really Peter, but someone else, based on Acts 4:13. But as mentioned before, that passage is referring to traditional rabbinical training. Worse still is rejecting Peter as the author means that there would be an error in the bible, which is not true (see the chapter entitled, “Interpreting the Bible, Bible Is Inerrant” in the other book on this website regarding Biblical Teaching Regarding Government).

Denying Peter wrote those books reminds me of the story of how Adam and Eve fell into sin. And what was their first sin? Doubting God.

Genesis

003:001 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

003:002 **And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:**

003:003 **But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.**

003:004 **And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:**

003:005 **For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**

003:006 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

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003:007 **And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.**

So, in the same way these scholars who deny Peter wrote 1 & 2 Peter raise doubts on the accuracy of the bible. They are saying that there are flaws in the bible, it is not fully trustworthy, don't trust God or His word. That is wrong.

And a similar claim is made by these scholars on some of the books of Paul. Remember, each of them is an epistle, or letter. Let's look at the salutation in each.

Romans

001:001 **Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle,** separated unto the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians

001:001 **Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,**

001:002 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

2 Corinthians

001:001 **Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,** unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

Galatians

001:001 **Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)**

001:002 **And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:**

Ephesians

001:001 **Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus,** and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Philemon

001:001 **Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi,** with the bishops and deacons:

Colossians

001:001 **Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,**

001:002 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians

001:001 **Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians** which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians

001:001 **Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians** in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

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1 Timothy

001:001 **Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;**

001:002 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy

001:001 **Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,**

001:002 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus

01:001 **Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect,** and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

001:002 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

001:003 But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

001:004 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Philemon

001:001 **Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother,** unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,

001:002 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

And as with the epistles of Peter, to deny Paul wrote them is to say there are errors in the bible, which cannot be.

Another way people could identify Paul's writings is by the fact Paul wrote the salutation in the letter by his own hand. This implies that Paul may have dictated his letter to another, and then wrote the salutation himself. Notice in the passage below, Paul said he always wrote the salutation himself – in his own handwriting. Of course, when the epistles were copied, the copies did not have Paul's handwriting in them. But this is how we know Paul wrote the originals.

2 Thessalonians

003:016 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

003:017 **The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.**

003:018 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen

Many believe Hebrews was written by Paul. However, the human authorship is uncertain. One certain thing is it was written by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The point in all of this is that many of these scholars reject the bible as being accurate and therefore should be ignored. Remember, the scribes and Pharisees were the biblical scholars of their day and they were not as knowledgeable as they thought. Notice what Jesus said in one passage.

Matthew

023:001 **Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,**

023:002 **Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:**

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- 023:003 **All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.**
- 023:004 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.
- 023:005 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,
- 023:006 And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
- 023:007 And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
- 023:008 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.
- 023:009 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
- 023:010 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.
- 023:011 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.
- 023:012 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.
- 023:013 **But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.
- 023:014 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.
- 023:015 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.
- 023:016 **Woe unto you, ye blind guides,** which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!
- 023:017 **Ye fools and blind:** for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?
- 023:018 And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.
- 023:019 **Ye fools and blind:** for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?
- 023:020 Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.
- 023:021 And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.
- 023:022 And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.
- 023:023 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.
- 023:024 **Ye blind guides,** which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.
- 023:025 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.
- 023:026 **Thou blind Pharisee,** cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.
- 023:027 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.
- 023:028 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.
- 023:029 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,
- 023:030 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.
- 023:031 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

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023:032 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

023:033 **Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?**

023:034 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

023:035 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

023:036 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

023:037 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

023:038 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

023:039 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord

Point is, having a doctorate, a professorship, being called a scholar is meaningless if one does not have the Holy Spirit as a guide, and should be ignored. This writer is not claiming a full indwelling of the Spirit. But the Spirit confirmed in his heart that the bible is real and trustworthy.