

## Finding Life Video Series 2: The Light and Life

### Video 4: The Wrong Standard, The Bible - Part 2

Hi and welcomed back if you have watched any of the previous videos. My name is Tim Spiess and I am serving as a guide to help people find Light and Life...to find a good and meaningful purpose to our lives...to improve our lives and make us better human beings.

In this second video series, we are taking a closer and careful look at the Designer or Creator's messenger, his person, his life and his message. We need to do this because the messenger's message has been essentially destroyed due to the problem we have that we learned about in video series one. The purpose of this second video series is to recover what the Designer's messenger really did and said, and thus recover his message and its incredibly important relevance to our lives.

Let's not forget the main message from video series 1...that we humans have a real problem with pride, fear and selfishness, and those characteristics of our nature impede all important journeys, including and especially this most important journey. This import truth regarding our problem does not just go away once acknowledged, but rather needs constant work to overcome. We also determined in video series one that the only reasonable explanation for the existence of humans and our nature is that a Designer exists to account for our existence.

OK, so one of the things we need to do in order to hear and understand the messenger's message is to examine the false thing that is currently represented as the messenger's message. If we compare and contrast the real message and the false one, we will be able to grasp the real one with more clarity and hopefully receive it and act upon it.

In our last video, we started to take a look at perhaps the most important thing regarding the messenger and his message, and that is what is the message or the standard for the messenger. We noted the obvious, that the standard of what the messenger's message ought to be is, well, HIS message or his words and teachings! Unfortunately, this is not the case for millions of people who have been sold an alternate standard of knowing what the Creator is like and what he wants, and that alternate and wrong standard is the bible. In essence, the truth of the messenger and his message has been hidden in a large book which contains lots of errors and false concepts about God.

We saw last time that the primary basis that the religious leaders to use in order to justify their claim that the bible is god's word to mankind, or the standard to know the Creator - instead of the Messenger, Joshua of Nazareth - is Paul's teaching in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to Timothy. So, at the most basic level, they are looking to Paul instead of to Joshua of Nazareth. When we looked at Paul's statement, we saw that Paul was clearly referring to the Hebrew scriptures, not what would later become the new testament which was not yet compiled. Here is Paul's quote again,

Quote, "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

Again, please note that Paul speaks of the "sacred writings" that Timothy had known quote "from childhood", clearly meaning the Hebrew scriptures or old testament, which is what his statement, "All Scripture is inspired by God" is referring to. Please note also that Paul started the practice of pointing away from the messenger when he says, "the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation". That statement says that the quote "sacred writings" or

Hebrew scripture are what enables and leads a person to quote “salvation”. Paul sticks this onto the end of that statement, “through faith which is in Christ Jesus”. I will give Paul the benefit of the doubt and conclude he was very confused or unable to completely let go of his religious beliefs regarding Hebrewism or Judaism at that time. At best, the statement is confusing since it says that the Hebrew scriptures are required salvation, but that salvation comes through faith in Christ Jesus. So, which is it, the scriptures or ‘christ jesus’?

Well, what does the messenger himself say about the Hebrew scriptures? Does he say that his message is somehow contained in or unlocked by or only understood through the Hebrew scriptures? Does he say that a person needs the Hebrew scriptures in order to understand him or his message?

Here is a key statement from the Messenger in that regard:

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; 40 and yet you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

So, while some of the Hebrew scriptures testify that a messenger directly from God would be sent, the point is to listen to the messenger when he comes, not continue to look to the Hebrew scripture and thus ignore the messenger!

Later he says..

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away”. He asks people many times in different ways to quote “believe what I say” in order to know the Creator, NOT ‘look to the scripture to understand the Creator’. To sum up Joshua’s sayings regarding the Hebrew scripture it is, “when they speak of me and tell you to listen to me, you ought to do what they say”. That is a far different instruction than what Paul gives when he says that a person needs the Hebrew scripture to provide the wisdom necessary to lead to salvation...no, one only needs the messenger.

Finally, the messenger says this...

“I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the smart and intelligent and have instead revealed them to young children.”

In other words, the Creator’s message to humanity is not difficult to understand...in fact it is so simple that little children can understand it. You don’t have to pour through the large and confusing book that is the Hebrew scriptures or old testament in order to understand what the messenger says. You don’t have to look to the new testament bible authors or any other voice. You don’t have to know Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek in order to hear or understand the messenger’s message. Do you remember what the Creator’s message is, dear viewer?

It is “listen to my Son, my messenger to mankind, and do what he says”. And what does the messenger say? “Love each other and care about what is true and right according to my simple teachings”? Beautifully simple, isn’t it?

So, the Light identifies the primary religious error, that people believe that in the Hebrew scriptures then, or the holy bible today – or any other supposed sacred writings – that through the scripture quote “they have eternal life”. Again, the error is that people believe they will ‘go to heaven’ based on their reading, studying, knowing the scripture instead of their quote “coming to the Messenger” and trusting him and what he says about the Creator. He acknowledges that the Hebrew scriptures had some things in them that pertained to him, but that they were not doing what even their scripture told them to do, which was to trust the Creator’s messenger when he came to them so that they might have life. This, most did not do, but instead they killed the messenger since he was not what they wanted him to be...what they thought their scripture said he would be.

OK, what are some other bible statements that the religious leaders use in order to get the people to listen to them and their understanding of the large, complicated book called the bible, which they say is the standard for knowing what God wants for mankind.

In addition to Paul's statement in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, religious leaders try and back up their false statement that the protestant bible is the "word of God to mankind" and thus the standard mankind should use in order to know God and his desires for mankind, by quoting two other scriptures. The first is this statement which Peter made in his second letter, quote "...just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction".

The religious leaders make two claims with this statement of Peter. First, that Paul's writings should be considered, "scripture", or 'holy writings about god' since Peter refers to them as such in this single sentence. Second, that those who have a different understanding of God or Joshua than Paul, or who disagree with Paul's beliefs, will send themselves to destruction. Let's take a brief look at the first claim, that Paul's writings ought to be considered "scripture" since Peter said so. I would start by asking the question, did Peter have a better understanding of Joshua and the Creator than Joshua? Joshua claimed to be without fault and to be the only person who was with the Creator and thus who properly understood the Creator, and there is nothing in the account of his life to suggest that was not true...the Creator's messenger did not mess up or fail in his mission. How about Peter? Peter denied Joshua three times in a time of weakness. That is a pretty significant failure. Furthermore, Paul says in the letter he wrote to the christians at Galatia:

"But when Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. 13 The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

So, according to Paul, at some point Peter was “not straightforward about the truth of the gospel”; or, stated another way, that Peter was either confused about what Paul describes elsewhere as ‘the gospel of Christ Jesus’, or was purposely distorting it.

This is a great example of the foolishness of listening to other men tell you what the messenger said and meant when you have the messenger’s words themselves available to you! Sadly, that is the crux of the religious system of men – that the religious leaders say the people need them in order to understand the messenger. Well, according to their own supposedly sacred writings, two main characters associated with the messenger – one who was with the messenger for about 3 years, Peter; and another who claimed to know the messenger through a vision and wrote most of what people call the new testament, Paul – could not always agree about fundamental aspects of what the messenger’s message was!!!

Therefore, if a person would like to believe that Peter considered Paul’s writings as “scripture”, they are free to do that, but frankly it is irrelevant what Peter thought of Paul’s writings. That only matters if you have Paul’s view that “all scripture is inspired of God” – and as we have seen, that statement from Paul was restricted to the Hebrew scriptures or old testament. And, as we shall see, if the Hebrew scriptures contain contradictions or false things, then we will be able to conclude that Paul’s view is wrong.

What about the second part of Peter’s saying, where he says, “...just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction”.

We need to understand that the God of the Hebrew scriptures is a fearful, vengeful, being – one that kills or orders the killing of entire people groups to accomplish his will - and that is what Peter was raised with...his religious baggage so to speak. So, he was taught, like Paul, that the scriptures were really important in understanding God, and so, to misrepresent them would be bad. Thus, he

is consistent with the view that God will punish all who misrepresent the Hebrew scripture's portrayal of God. Unfortunately, in his words here, Peter provides justification for religious fear and its associated anger, hatred and possible punishment of those who disagree with what the majority religious group at that time and place define as a correct understanding of God or of their sacred writings.

Contrast Peter's view with the messengers, as the Light says...

Quote, "I have not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them"; or, "love even those who make themselves your enemies". These teachings can eliminate all fear and hatred towards others contrary to Peter's fear teaching.

OK, let's move on to the only other bible text that religious leaders use in order to justify their claim that the bible is the standard people ought to use to know God and what he wants. It is another statement by Peter in his second letter, and here it is:

"So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

So, the statement that is used by religious leaders to make their case that the 66 book protestant bible is the quote 'Word of God', is this statement by Peter, "that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

Let's remember the basic point that Peter's thoughts on god stuff really doesn't matter, as Peter is not the Creator's messenger, and, as we have seen, Peter was not a perfect human being, just like the rest of us! One thing that is crystal clear about this statement and belief of Peter is that it only

applies to quote “prophecy of scripture” AND he also, no doubt had the Hebrew scripture in mind with the statement. Prophetic statements in the Hebrew scripture probably account for less than 1% of all of the Hebrew scripture, so his statement – if taken at face value – has little relevance to the modern religious leader’s claims that the statement helps support their belief that the 66 book protestant bible is the word of God to mankind.

Well, folks, that’s about it. Those three quotes – one from Paul and two from Peter – are the primary bible statements that the modern christian religious leaders use to support their claim that the 66 book protestant bible represents the word of God to mankind. As you can see, those statements plainly do not support the claim that the book the religious leader’s hold in their hands and quote from is the Creator’s message to mankind. Even if you believe Paul and Peter’s statements about the scripture and wrongly apply them to both the old and new testaments, the letters of Jude, James, John and yes Peter, as well as the book of revelation, would not qualify as “scripture” since they were not written by Paul and Peter’s statement about scripture in 2 Pet. 3:16 only apply to Paul.

Of course there are some other things that people point to to try and support the belief that all of the bible’s contents accurately represent the mind of God, or God’s thoughts about various things. It appears to me that the primary motivation to create, promote or perpetuate the fairy tale that all the bible’s content accurately represents God and contains no errors, is to draw attention away from the Messenger. By burying the Messenger’s message in the large book; and by claiming that the entire book is God’s Word to mankind; one very effectively nullifies the Light and his message...his message becomes no more important - and than less than about 1% - of the entire message. Would there be a more clever, effective way to nullify the messenger’s message?

The claim that the bible perfectly represents God and is free from errors also performs the function of keeping people reliant upon the expert’s so called, who claim to understand the bible better than we do. You see, the bible is a very large book that was written by at least 44 authors



over the span of about 1,500 years, and thus it contains many different stories and claims and perspectives about God, and many of those claims and perspectives contradict each other. If the book is what the religious authorities claim it is – the communication from God to mankind – and the average person has no chance at all of comprehending or integrating its contents into a coherent understanding or view of God's person, nature or will; then where does that leave the average person? It leaves them dependent upon the religious leaders who claim to understand the book's contents. Once people believe this, they are then dependent upon the religious leaders to understand God, and then the religious leaders – instead of the messenger – become the revealers of the Creator. One only need to perform a cursory view of history to see where this typically leads. How many millions of people have been harmed or have harmed others due to religious leader's edicts about God's will? How many religious leaders have abused the power they gain when people trust them to understand the Creator? Has having, increasing or gaining power over other people proved to be a bit of a problem for human beings whether religious or non-religious? How many religious leaders today materially enrich themselves at their follower's expense? We will take a closer look at these things in later videos.

Next time, we will take a brief look at some statements in the bible and see how they stand up to reason and the teachings of the one who calls himself the Light of the world and the Life that men need.

Until next time, be real, get past the shallowness and pretentiousness of typical American life – especially religious life – and seek deeper, to find what you truly need.