

What the Church Was Meant to Be – Part 4

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Introduction:

A. Tonight we want to continue talking about the church.

1. The church glorifies God.

a. It glorifies God by having godly leaders.

b. It glorifies God by holding to a high standard of behavior.

B. We will summarize this tonight.

I. The church glorifies God by being committed to the word of God. (Psalm 138:2)

A. Our standard is the word of God.

1. A politician changed his stand on capital punishment because of the view of his constituents.

2. The church cannot change its view on truth because of people's ideas.

3. Some people don't believe the word should be preeminent.

4. The Bible claims certain things for itself.

a. It claims to be infallible. (Psalm 19:7)

b. It is inerrant in its whole and in its parts. (Proverbs 35:6)

c. It is complete, not to be added to. (Rev 22:18-19)

d. It is authoritative. (Isaiah 1:2)

e. It is sufficient for everything. (2 Timothy 3)

f. It is effective. (Isaiah 55)

g. It accomplished God's purposes. (Isaiah 46:10)

g. It is determinative. (John 8:24)

B. Because the Bible is all these things it is always under attack in four ways.

1. The head on attack that the Bible is not true.

a. More and more people are accepting this idea, even ministers.

b. They say is true only on spiritual things.

c. Some say it is true only as it speaks to you.

2. The attack for the rear, claiming that my experience is as true as the Bible.

a. The Roman Catholic Church has held to this, saying the church councils are true.

b. The charismatic movement has also maintained this, receiving revelation.

1. How do we discern the truth of new revelations?

2. Adding things to the revelation of God is dangerous.

3. Extra biblical revelation is impossible to verify.

4. We must separate application from interpretation.

5. One lady exalts her experience above Scripture.

3. A sideway attack on the Bible maintains other disciplines must be added to the Bible.

a. We have adapted theistic evolution to the Bible because we were intimidated by science.

b. One scientist concluded that creation exploded into existence in one second, verifying the idea of creation.

c. I debated a homosexual man who said the Bible cannot be used today because it has old prejudices.

d. In counseling psychology is being added to Scriptural principles.

4. An inside attack comes from evangelicals who believe the Bible is inerrant but don't teach this truth.

a. Expository preaching should be proclaimed from the pulpit.

b. If we believe the Bible we must teach the Bible.

c. The desire to know things is equal to the sex drive.

C. Why should we study the Bible?

1. The Bible is the source of truth.

a. A man tried pleasure and humanism and love and never found satisfaction.

- b. In *Catch 22* the number of missions needed to get out of the Air Force kept increasing so one could ever escape. If one were insane he could escape but one could not declare oneself to be insane, so there was no escape.
- c. All our increase of knowledge will not give us an escape from the futility of learning but failing to come to the knowledge of truth.
- 5. We will develop artificial wombs to create the children we want.
- 6. We will develop artificial organs to keep people alive longer.
- 7. Our cities are growing rapidly and expanding yet we don't have answers to our problems.
- 8. Jesus said his word is truth. (John 17:17)

2. The Bible is the source of happiness.

- a. People change spouses to find happiness.
- b. People will do nearly anything to find happiness and commit suicide when they fail to find it.
- c. Happiness comes to those who listen to God. (Proverbs 8:34)
- d. Happiness comes to those who obey the word. (Luke 11:28)
- e. Jeremiah delighted in God's word even though no one listened to him. (Jeremiah 15:16)
- f. A Jewish lady was suffering in a bad marriage and came to our church to discover happy people that led her to the Lord.

3. The Bible is the source of victory.

- a. Many people get tired of losing in life.
- b. Jesus responded to his temptations by quoting Scripture. (Matthew 4)
- c. We need the sword of the Spirit. (Ephesians 6)
 - 1. A specific word applied to a specific task.
 - 2. We need the whole counsel of God.

4. Bible is a source of growth.

- a. We need to desire the word like a baby desires milk. (1 Peter 2)
- b. Our desire for the word needs to be consuming.

- c. A mentally handicapped man in our church gave his life to Christ and wanted to be baptized. We had him give his testimony as we usually do and he spoke clearly about who Jesus is.

II. Summary.

A. The Bible is all these things and the church will not be what it was meant to be unless it hold to the word of God.

1. The apostles committed themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.
2. We need to do the same.

B. Prayer.

Father, thank you for our time tonight. Teach us the truth of your word. Your word is a source of happiness and joy. May our churches be churches that glorify God by holding to the truth of your word. We pray in Jesus name.