



bits from bob....

What Does the Bible Say? Does It Matter?

May 25, 2020

Today's reflections fit the title – here are a few “bits.” A question ties these “bits” together – “What does the Bible Say?” I add a second question, “Does it matter?”

Consider this quote by the infamous Christian named Anonymous:

“We are at a point in Christianity where people do not care if you can back it up with the Bible. Their feelings, desires, and emotions override what Scripture says. They don't follow Christ, they follow self.”

I write primarily for those of my fellowship, my tribe. But regardless of your religious heritage, if you are “on board” for these weekly reflections, sharing the faith journey with me, welcome! I hope you will be blessed by these “bits.”

Pick a subject, a Bible subject. Can we agree? Sure! What does the Bible say? Find and study the Bible verses that speak to the subject, using basic Bible study principles. The problem? Less and less interest in determining what the Bible says. Less and less interest in Bible authority. Pragmatism – do what works. People are deciding what the Bible says based on what they think, what others think, what they read or hear, even what they want to believe. Experience, desire, hope.

A number of years ago, a preaching friend (from another religious group) and I were discussing the Bible. He said to me, “You are right, that is what the Bible teaches, but we do not have to do what the Bible says.” He then explained to me his reasoning – bias, cultural differences, matter of opinion, no big deal, God is only interested in good hearts.

I believe that what the Bible says matters. Is it now old-fashioned and out-of-date to affirm this truth? A preaching friend (from my tribe) went to a conference attended by people from various Christian groups. In a breakout session, a person from another religious group commented, “You in the churches of Christ have done us a great service. You have constantly reminded us that what the Bible says has to matter.”

Does it matter what the Bible says? When Christians lose their commitment to the authority of the Word of God, they lose the need to obey that Word. Why is the church (which is really only church members) so slow to spread the Good News? Is it because we are unsure of what the Bible says? Why is the church so distracted in evangelism and missions? Is it because we do not know and honor what the Bible says? It is time and past time to recommit to knowing and obeying God's Word.

I close with a quote from Charles Spurgeon: “Don't go where it is all fine music and grand talk and beautiful architecture... Go where the gospel is preached and go often.”