

Christian Beliefs Week 2: Notes

Ch 1: What is the Bible?

1. *What does the doctrine of authority mean in reference to the Bible?*
2. *What are some differences b/w Liberal Theology and Christian Theology?*
3. *What sticks out to you the most after hearing this list? Why are liberal theology and churches so dangerous?*
4. *What is the difference between saying God's words are true and that God's Word is truth?*
5. *What does biblical inerrancy mean? Why do you think the debate on inerrancy has become such a large issue in our culture?*
6. *What does the doctrine of clarity of the Bible mean?*
7. *How can we grow in understanding the OT? How can we approach passages in Scripture that are difficult for us to understand?*
8. *What does the doctrine of the necessity of the Bible mean?*
9. *What does the doctrine of the sufficiency of the Bible mean?*
10. *Based on the sufficiency of Scripture, how would you respond to someone who is trying to add to the teaching of Scripture?*

Discussion:

- Why is it important that the Bible be the basis for our beliefs?
- Will the Bible definitively answer every question we bring to it? Why or why not?
- What is one issue that the Bible speaks clearly on? What is one issue it doesn't? How does this affect the emphasis you should place on these issues?

Personal Reflection:

- Do I carve out time in my life to understand Scripture? (Not just reading it.) How does my time in the Word compare with my time spent on the internet or engaging with media?
- Do I expect understanding the Bible to be easy? What is my emotional response to the challenge of understanding God's Word?
- If I encounter difficulty in understanding the Bible, do I turn to other resources for help? (i.e., blueletterbible.org, gotquestions.com)
- When confronted with areas of my life that are challenged by the teaching of Scripture, how do I respond?
- Do I approach God's Word prayerfully, asking for the Spirit's help to understand, or do I do it in my own strength?
- Is my response to a lack of understanding of the Bible frustration or trust? Do I acknowledge my sin in my approach to Scripture?
- How do you think the necessity of Scripture helps you think about evangelism and missions?
- If you believe in the sufficiency of Scripture, how much have you placed on reading other books vs. the Bible?