

Finding Life Video Series 2: The Light and Life

Video 3: The Wrong Standard, the Bible – Part 1

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. In previous videos, we have made it quite far in answering those important questions of what is the purpose to my life and how can my life have true and deep meaning. We have determined, using observation and reason, that a Designer of the human race exists. Furthermore, we have determined, using reasonable criteria, that there was only one messenger who accurately represented that Designer of the human race. We revealed that messenger in the last two or so videos, and we have been cleaning the dirt, so to speak, off that messenger and his message – dirt placed over him by the very religious system that claims to represent him – Christianity.

Last time we repeated the messenger's message to mankind and furthermore, we contrasted the real message with the false one proclaimed by the religious leaders of Christianity. The real and simple message of the designer is this...'listen to my messenger, my beloved Son...do what he says and love one another and care about each other and do what is right and true according to him...do this, and you will both enter into Life as well as experience trouble in the world from those who will not listen to him nor do what he says'.

Before we can know truth or fact in any realm, we need a framework of understanding for context or, stated another way, we need some way to judge one thing against another. For things that are physically measurable, this is fairly straightforward. For example, how do you know if a computer is “powerful”? Agree to a measure or standard of power like computations per second, and then test the machine. When someone asks, “how powerful is that computer”, you can provide an objective answer against the standard of “computations per second”. Or, as another example, how do you know how physically strong a person is? Define what aspects of physical strength you would like to include in “strong” and then test people against that standard. Then, when someone asks, “how strong is John compared to Jack”, you could provide an objective answer.

What about human behavior – what is the standard for knowing what is right or wrong? What is the standard to make such judgments? Is it men’s laws in a particular nation or state? Is it cultural norms that are held by people? Is it each individual’s conscience? Is it the decree of a king? Each standard used to determine truth, fact, or rightness or wrongness in any realm will either be more objective or less objective.

In general, for physical things that are designed or manufactured, the designer or manufacturer or creator would be the best standard for knowing why something was designed a certain way and how it is designed to work. This would include either non-organic things like cars or robots or organic beings like animals or people. Human beings have a both physical and meta-physical components to our nature as we saw in the first video series, and since both components were designed by the Designer, it is only reasonable that we look to the Designer to know both why we exist and how both our components – physical and non-physical - are supposed to work, operate or behave.

The premise in this video series is that the objective standard to know true or false beliefs regarding human existence and purpose; and the objective standard to know right or wrong human behavior, is the Designer's messenger. That is to say, that the Designer of the human race knows both the purpose of why he designed the race as well as what is right and wrong behavior of that which he designed, we humans...in other words, the Designer sets the standard for what he created in order to accomplish his purpose for human beings. In this case, we could say that our standard is as objective as possible. We could further say that if his messenger accurately represented the Designer's will for humans, and the messenger's message was accurately recorded and persevered after the messenger left; that we can have a high degree of confidence that our standard is the best possible standard.

The purpose of this video is to start to examine the standard the Christian religious system claims, the bible, and compare it to the actual messenger's standard, the messenger's own words and teachings.

At its simplest level, you should wonder why the Designer's standard for the Designer's message could be anything else than the messenger's message delivered by his messenger. You would be right for wondering about that, for in fact, it should not be anything other than the messenger's message. For those of us who can see that simple fact, we have the greatest opportunity to be free and to live as we were intended by the Creator. Please listen to the messenger in that regard, for he says...

Quote "If you continue in my words/teachings/message; then you are my student or follower, and then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free". unquote

This teaching of the Creator's perfectly aligns with what we said would make sense...that the standard for what the Creator wants humans to be would be plainly stated by his messenger alone. This would be especially true if the messenger has the best understanding of the Creator and was free of all bias, while all other human's are not.

For those who are unwilling to see the simple truth that the Designer's messenger and his message is the standard for the human race...those people will have great difficulty in finding the Life the Designer offers.

In contrast to the messenger's message, the Christian religious system looks to many hundreds of other people to try and know the Designer and his will for the human race. This is very unfortunate, since many of the voices the christian's listen to contradict the messenger's voice as we shall see. The fact is that the vast majority of Christians have the wrong standard upon which to understand what the Creator wants for both the human race, and especially of those who listen to him.

So, to begin to understand the christian's standard, let's attempt to start at the beginning.

About 1,400 years prior to the messenger's arrival, the descendants of a certain man, Jacob or Israel – began writing many books chronicling what they considered important parts of their history. They considered themselves as a discrete people group who became known as the Hebrews and later as the Jews. The Hebrew writers of those books incorporated their religion and beliefs about God in their writings about their histories. Those books were compiled into a single book that came to be called the old

testament by those who believed that the messenger – whose first visit was among the descendants of Jacob – was the predicted leader of the descendants of Jacob.

About 2,000 years ago, the Designer sent his messenger, and that messenger lived among the Hebrew people. The messenger called a number of men to follow him and he trained them and relied on them to record his life and message. The recordings of the Designer's messengers life and teachings were successfully recorded and eventually preserved in four written books.

A quick side note here - many object to the belief that the messenger's life and teachings were successfully recorded and ask the question, 'how can you prove that the messenger's life and teachings were accurately recorded and preserved in those four books'? That is a fair question, and the answer is no one can prove that...any more than any other person can prove human event that occurred in the distant past. Did those who claimed to be eye witnesses to certain events accurately record them? In the case of the messenger, there is a significant advantage that allows us to have high confidence that his life and message were accurately recorded. What is that advantage? Instead of just one eye witness account, ***we have four separate people who recorded the messenger's life and teachings, and those four accounts have no significant variance regarding facts about his life and no significant variance about his primary teachings.*** Please let me repeat that important fact.

A few years after the messenger went back to the Designer, others wrote letters - namely Paul, the primary author of what people call the new testament – and the authors in those letters claimed to have important information about God that they were communicating to those addressed by those letters.

Those two sets of books – the old testament and the new testament - became what contemporary people who take some christian label now call ‘the bible’ or ‘the holy bible’.

That is a really short summary of the history of the bible, but it is an accurate one and I invite the viewer to verify this.

To sum up thus far, the four accounts of the messenger’s life and teachings were placed in between the old testament of the descendants of Jacob, and the new testament comprised primarily of the letters of Paul to Christians. What the christian’s call ‘the old testament’ supposedly represent’s god’s will, desire and ways before Joshua of Nazareth came. The ‘new testament’ supposedly represent’s god’s will, desire and ways after Joshua of Nazareth came.

OK, let’s shift away from historical facts to today. If you go and try to buy a bible today, you will find hundreds of options. The most basic difference is between the roman catholic bible and the protestant bible. The catholic bible has seven more old testament books than the protestant bible. After that, you have many differences between the hundreds of bible versions available. Translation methods, Greek or Aramaic or Hebrew language emphasis, etc. – there are many reasons for the variations between the hundreds of bible versions.

Here are some interesting facts about the bible. The Bible is essentially a mini library of 66 books, written by 44 authors over a period of about 1500 years. The 39 books of the protestant Old Testament were composed between 1400 and 400 B.C., the 27 books of the New Testament between A.D. 50 and A.D. 100. The bible is the most widely

distributed and best selling book in history. The bible has been translated into over 1,200 languages. There is no doubt that the bible is a special book that captures many people's attention. This is so because many of the bible author's claim to have had experiences with God or to have known others who had experiences with God, and part of the Designer's programming, so to speak, for the human soul is that we have a desire to know our Creator. Therefore, anything that claims to provide insight, knowledge, revelation or understanding about the Creator or God will attract people's attention. Thus, the popularity of the bible.

As I have readily admitted, the bible is a special book. Furthermore, and in my opinion, the bible contains many historical facts that help contemporary readers understand various ancient people groups and some of their real life experiences. However, many people have made the bible into something it is not...they have turned the bible into a sacred religious talisman. Stated another way, many people venerate and worship the book they call the 'holy bible'. This is a terrible mistake because this error causes many people to not be able to hear the messenger and his message.

There are two basic types of people who venerate the bible. There are those who do so merely because of tradition or due to what other people – particularly religious leaders - say about it. It is kind of a religiously correct thing to do. The other kind of people are those who use their minds to try and understand the bible and put forth arguments to defend their belief that the bible is quote, "God's Word to mankind". Let's talk a look at the latter kind of people and see what they use to validate that important claim. I will call them biblians, for that is an apt name for people who venerate the book of that name.

As we have seen, we need some standard in order to claim objectivity or to defend, using reason, some belief or principle we hold as true. Since the biblicians claim that their standard for understanding God is the bible, they will turn to their book to support that claim. Ironically, ***their book itself does not state anything to the effect of, “the sixty six books of the protestant bible comprise the word of god to mankind”, even though that is what thousands of religious leaders regularly proclaim and what many millions of biblicians have come to believe.*** Please allow me to repeat that important fact.

They quote Paul, the primary author of the new testament, to defend their statement that “the sixty six books comprising the protestant bible is the word of God to mankind”. Here is what Paul actually says in his second letter to Timothy:

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.”

So in this passage, Paul tells the younger man to listen to him when he says, “continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing *from whom* you have learned them”. He then reminds Timothy, “that from childhood you have known the sacred writings”, clearly meaning the Hebrew scripture. Clearly the new testament that we hold today and the writings of which it is comprised were not yet compiled at Paul’s time when he wrote that letter to Timothy, let alone when Timothy was a child - “from

your childhood you have known the sacred writings”. Paul then put’s forth his belief about the quote “sacred writings which are able to give you wisdom that leads to salvation”. Again, Paul is clearly referring to the Hebrew scripture when he says, “All scripture is inspired by God, etc.” This statement from Paul is the basis of the contemporary religious leaders claim that “the bible”, both old and new testaments, are quote, “the word of God to mankind”. Therefore, when the modern religious leader’s stand on their stages and hold up the bible and say, “this is the word of God”, they have no reasonable basis to claim that, not even from the book itself. ***In fact, if you search all of the protestant bible for the phrase, “the word of God”, you will find that no where does that phrase mean the 66 book protestant bible or the 73 book roman catholic bible. In fact, the phrase never even means ‘the scripture’ or something written. The best synonym for the phrase “the word of god” in term of how the bible itself defines it would be, “the truths of God”, and the word of God was always spoken, not written.*** Please allow me to repeat that important fact.

The bible itself does refer to something as “the word of God” or simply “the word” in addition to the phrase meaning the truths of God. In John’s book about Joshua, he opens with a statement about “the Word” in reference to Joshua of Nazareth. In Luke’s book about the life and teachings of Joshua, he opens with a statement about eye witnesses of “the word” in reference to Joshua of Nazareth. In the last book of the bible, revelation, chapter 19 verse 13, the author supposedly has a vision of heaven and refers to Joshua of Nazareth as quote “the word of God”. Therefore, ***the bible itself does refer to a noun which is ‘the word of God’ to mankind, and that noun is a***

person, Joshua of Nazareth, not a thing, the book called the bible. Please let me repeat that important truth.

Therefore, those who control the Christian religious system use “Christ” as their figurehead and say that the “word of God” is a book, the bible, while the book itself refers to a person as the word of God to mankind, the historical person of Joshua of Nazareth who reveals himself through his own words in the first four books of the new testament. Not only is there no support for religious leaders calling the bible ‘the word of god’, but they contradict the bible itself which says that Joshua of Nazareth is the word of God to mankind.

The simple fact about Paul’s statement and his belief about the scripture that he wrote in his letter to Timothy, is that his statement is restricted to the Hebrew or old testament scripture and nothing more. It is contemporary religious leaders who twist Paul’s statement about the Hebrew scripture in 2 Tim. 3:16 to mean the 66 books of the protestant bible.

OK, let’s summarize at this point. Mankind needs a standard to know what is good and right human purpose and behavior. The Designer or Creator of mankind provided that standard by sending his messenger, Joshua of Nazareth. Joshua of Nazareth’s life and teachings were successfully recorded and preserved in four books written either by eye witnesses -or those who extensively interviewed eye witnesses - of Joshua of Nazareth’s life, works and teachings.

In contrast, the Christian religious system and its leaders and followers, have chosen a different standard to know the Creator and his desires for mankind, and that standard is

the bible. While the four books which contain the eye witness accounts of the messenger have been included in that large book, the other authors of the bible contradict Joshua's primary and fundamental teachings. In addition, the four books that contain the messenger's message have been buried in that large book and account for only about 5 percent of its contents. In addition, most people on the planet read books from the beginning to the end, or stated another way, from the left to the right. If a person reads the bible that way, the four books that contain the Creator's message will not be encountered until one has had to read about 65% of the book comprised of the Hebrew's history and their beliefs about God, which histories, I might add, have essentially no relevance to a contemporary person! So, we might say that that which is extremely valuable and relevant – the Creator's message to mankind and the purpose to human life – has been buried in a large book that contains claims contradicting the messenger's message. A reasonable question to ask is, why would people do that? We shall find out in future videos.

Until next time, be real, get past the shallowness, pretentiousness and falsehoods that comprise Christianity, and look deeper, to find what you really need!