

Jesus the One and Only: Jesus Before the Scriptures

Heb. Ch. 1-2: The Jesus superior to angels; ch. 3, to Moses, Ch. 4, to Joshua, ch. 5 priesthood superior to the Aaronic “Let all the angels worship Him”; Moses saw my day- Moses looked to me;

From the beginning, lesser things have been elevated to supplant Jesus from His rightful place as the Head of the Church.

In the midst of the worship of Angels and the elevation of Moses, a most unlikely candidate is put forward to replace Jesus: the Sacred Scriptures.

Revelation 19:11-16 ¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. ¹³ *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Jesus is the Word of God. It is His name; it's who He is. The sharp sword that comes from His mouth- His precious Word- is only powerful because it is inseparably connected to Him!

5 minutes in the Word of God- 5 minutes with Jesus

If The Bible is set above the one who gave it- or worse yet, used to replace a whole member of the Godhead (the Holy Spirit)- it becomes the serpent on the pole.

serpent story, Kevin Deere Story

2 Kings 18:4 ⁴ He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan

Nehushtan means “a bit of bronze.” When we are worshipping our idols, we make them out to be all that God is. When we are confronted about them, we minimize them: “After all, it's just a bit of bronze.”

We talk it down because we want to keep it. If this is so, surely it must have been warned against in scripture...

John 5:38-40 ³⁸ You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; ⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

John 3:14-15 ¹⁴ As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵ so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

The serpent was never the point- a prophetic declaration that one was coming who would become a curse for us!

Have we assigned omnipotence to the scriptures, worshipping the creation above the creator because it can be felt and seen and held in the hand? What would your “quiet time” look like if you had no Bible?

“God is ‘the Truth.’ The Bible is the ‘truth about the Truth.’ Theology is the ‘truth about the truth about the Truth.’ Christian people live in these many truths about the Truth, and, because of them, have not ‘the Truth.’ Hungry, beaten, and drugged, we had forgotten theology and the Bible. We had forgotten the ‘truths about the Truth,’ therefore we lived in ‘the Truth.’” – Richard Wurmbrandt, *Tortured for Christ*

Great at reading and studying, but nearly inept at praying, discerning spiritual things and walking by faith

Are the scriptures all-sufficient and omnipotent, or do those things belong only to Jesus? God's precious Book serves FIRST and FOREMOST to lead us to Him, where all-sufficiency and omnipotence may be FOUND BY US!

Sacred Cow statements: not true vs. not complete

Does “scripture interpret scripture”, or does the Holy spirit interpret scripture as He leads us into all truth? Is it a closed system, or is it a spiritual gateway by which we come to a Living God to learn His will and grow in the truth?

John 16:12-14 ¹²“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

Is it true that “All scripture was written FOR us, but not all was written TO us?” Or does God the Holy Spirit have the right to deliver any Word from Scripture TO us at any time as a living Word from God to you?

Is obedience to the exact letter of scripture most important, or are we to be discerning ‘the spirit of the Law’ while learning directly from God how we might please Him?

Has God’s Book taught us to put up the sails of faith, or has it caused us to weigh anchor or stay moored to the landing?

The word “unbiblical” as a control mechanism- striking fear into the heart

Which is the greater aspiration? To be theologically astute and respected as a biblical thinker, or to become a spiritual person, marked by child-like faith and obedience, and a contagious love for Jesus?

John 5:41-45 ⁴¹I do not receive glory from men; ⁴²but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. ⁴³I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and only* God? ⁴⁵Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope.

Many could recite from memory the teachings of Moses, Paul- even Jesus Himself- but could not string together 2 sentences to describe what it means to know Jesus personally through the Scriptures by the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the Word of God. The Scriptures are a precious gift that leads us to Him. Are we knowing Him more day by day as we search them?

Ministry focus: come to the altar and bring your Bible.