

# Chapter One Workbook: The Views Of Scripture

## Scripture Memory:

*Revelation 22:18 & 19 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.*



# The Views of Scripture

## **Introduction: The Attacks upon the Word of God over the last fifty years**

Each era of modern Christianity has seen an every increasing attack upon the Word of God. In some ways, this systematic attack on the authority of the Word can be broken down decade by decade. This of course is by no means an exhaustive look at these attacks. Historians may see these decades differently, but these attacks never-the-less did exist. As you read the summation of each decade, record in the space provided what you feel to be...

1. The key sin at work in making this attack possible
2. The influence of this particular attack on the attitudes found in the church today.

### **A. The Attack of the 50's – New era of enlightenment**

1. During the post war era there was a feeling of invincibility, of enlightenment. Good had triumphed over evil, technology was going to solve the problems of the world
2. The benefits of a Christian basis for actions and work was attributed to man, there was a feeling that a new dawn of mankind had come and technology would lead the way.
3. The Bible therefor was giving way to this enlightenment. Mankind would do good and be good based on self-evident truths, rather than the Word of God.

State what you feel to be the key sin at work in making this attack possible

Next state the influence of this particular attack on the attitudes found in the church today.

### **B. The Attack of the 60's – Unreliable Text**

1. As the euphoria of the 50's began to wain and technology became suspect the attracts on the scripture became more direct.
2. The Word of God during this period was rejected out right because of supposed defects in the text.
3. As the authenticity of more and more secular documents of antiquity came into question as conflicting manuscripts and archeological findings were unearthed, it became fashionable to lump the Holy scriptures into this same category.
4. Over the ages the Bible had been changed, had evolved, just as other documents of antiquity.

State what you feel to be the key sin at work in making this attack possible

Next state the influence of this particular attack on the attitudes found in the church today.

### **C. The Attack of the 70's – Evolution and Science**

1. With the failure of archeology and research to provide any tangible proof of changes introduced into the Scriptures the attack turned to Evolution and Science
2. The Word of God was to be rejected in that tangible proofs of the impossibility of both miracles and the explanations of events in the Scriptures.
3. The Word of God was to be rejected due to the fact that it defied reason.

**D. The Attack of the 80's – Hedonism**

1. The pursuit of material goods replaced philosophical debate in the 80's.
2. The Word of God was rejected simply because it cramped the style of a hedonistic and materialistic society.

State what you feel to be the key sin at work in making this attack possible

Next state the influence of this particular attack on the attitudes found in the church today.

**E. The Attack of the 90's – Spiritism**

1. The failure of evolutionary models, the acknowledgment of undisputed miracles in medicine, the dumbing of society as a whole resulting in the open belief of UFOs, spirits and the occult all paved the way for the rejection of the Word of God based on spiritism.
2. The Word of God was seen as a dead and archaic document, while spiritism was alive and well. The Word of God was accepted only to the degree that it was subjected to experience.

State what you feel to be the key sin at work in making this attack possible

Next state the influence of this particular attack on the attitudes found in the church today.

**F. The Attack of the 21 Century – Inclusion**

1. Not that you are wrong – you may very well be right, but rather you are sophisticated enough to realize that they also may be right, if not in the whole, at least in part.
2. The arrogance of those claiming to be not only to be a way, but the one and only way will be seen as abhorrent in an enlightened society. To make the claim that we are right and everyone else is not only wrong, but so wrong they are going to spend an eternity in Hell. Not simply deceived but rebellious and living out a lie of their own purposeful creation.
3. How would those who advocate the doctrines of inclusion find each of the following passages offensive?
  - a. John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one*

*comes to the Father, but through Me.*

- b. Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*
  
  - c. John 3:19 *"And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.*
  
  - d. Romans 1:21 *For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*
  
  - e. Romans 2:2 *And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.*
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- 4. This new era of acceptance will say that the Word of God will be accepted but this acceptance must be broad enough to include other religions, other experiences and other views.
  - 5. This attack of inclusion is what is covered below. It is a most insidious type of compromise and must be met with the same resolution that our forefathers met the compromises offered them by satan.
    - a. Exodus 8:25 *And Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land."*  
Exodus 8:26 *But Moses said, "It is not right to do so, for we shall sacrifice to the Lord our God what is an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice what is an abomination to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not then stone us?"*
    - b. Like Moses, we must believe and obey every Word of God.

State what you feel to be the key sin at work in making this attack possible

Next state the influence of this particular attack on the attitudes found in the church today.

**I. Views of Scripture** – Each of these first all have a singular commonality. The acceptance, in one way or another of Extra- Biblical Revelation. The Word of God then becomes subservient to that new Revelation. In the world today, we are expected to believe the legitimacy of these new revelations or views. This is such a prevalent view that we should reflect on our own lives. How has our view of scripture been impacted by these assaults?

A. **Cults** – “The Word of God is understood in the light of our new religion”

1. In the space below list religions or cults which accept Jesus and the Bible but subjugate them an inferior position in the place of this new religion.

2. Issues

a. Red Deuteronomy 6:4 – what does this passage command?

1.) What type of idolatry is forbidden in Deuteronomy 6:12 – 16; 30:15 – 20

2.) Read I John 4:1 – 4; besides simply worshiping idols or another religion, what type of idolatry could be represented by spiritism?

Does spiritism necessarily have to exist outside the confines of Christianity?

What are some ways that “spiritims” manifests itself in Christianity? In answering this question consider the experiences below. How could satan or a demonic spirit manifest each one?

a.) Miracles –

b.) Spiritual Experiences –

c.) Spiritual appearances –

d.) Many say that if good results it must be from God. How does Matthew 7:22 & 23 speak to this?

3.) In Colossians 3:5 and Ephesians 5:5 what how is idolatry manifested?

4.) In II Corinthians 10:3 – 5 how is idolatry manifested

5.) We reject therefor any form of idolatry. It has no value or use in interpreting or understanding the Word of God. All so called religions of the World are understood in the light of The Word of God and not vice versa. The explanation is clear - Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

b. How does I Timothy 2:5 speak to this issue?

1.) What does this mean about all other religions?

2.) Apart from Christ can there be any mediator between God and man?

c. According to Revelation 22:18 & 19, how many revelations are there apart from the Bible?

1.) There is \_\_\_\_\_ God

2.) There is \_\_\_\_\_ Mediator

3.) There is \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation

d. Since earliest elementary school we have been taught about the “great religions” of the world. Their commonalities have been stressed. The importance of mutual acceptance has been stressed. “They have things we need, we have things they need”. An evolutionary model showing the common roots has been taught.

1.) What other misconceptions have you been taught?

2.) How does this tend to affect your view of other religious writings?

**B. Apostolic/Patriarchal Christians – “The Word of God is understood in light of continuing Apostolic authority and revelation.”**

1. Example:
  - a. How does the Catholic's churches view of the authority of the pope reflect this teaching?
  - b. How does the Orthodox church's view of the authority of church councils reflect this view?
  - c. How does the Pentecostal/Charismatic church's view of gifts such as Prophecy, Word of Wisdom/Knowledge; Tongues and their interpretation reflect this view?
  - d. Evangelical Extra-biblical Revelation – After death experiences; visions; messianic appearances; messages from God.
    - 1.) Just as the Pentecostals and Charismatic, laugh at Papal decrees while they themselves practice a form of this through their so called apostles, prophets and revelatory gifts. So evangelical Christians laugh at the Pentecostal revelatory gifts while at the same time accepting extra-biblical revelation through experiences.
    - 2.) We therefor reject any experience which gives us new information not found in the Bible. How would the following constitute extra-biblical revelation?
      - a.) Appearances by Jesus
      - b.) Appearances by angels or demons
      - c.) Experiences which take us to heaven or hell
      - d.) Visions which give us information not found in the Bible
      - e.) Any spiritual information not found in the Word of God.

2. Issues:

In the project below, read the statement, next read the proof text, lastly, write a summation of how the proof text establishes the validity of the statement.

- a. We reject any new information – that which either adds to or takes away from the Word of God. Revelation 22:18 & 19
- b. We reject that which causes those who rely upon the Word of God to have incomplete information. Deuteronomy 29:29; 30:11 – 14; II Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:1

- c. We reject that which is revelatory in knowledge or experience. (Example: II Peter 2:20,21; Revelation 1:9 – 12)
- d. We reject other mediators, whether dead or alive. I Timothy 2:5
- e. In what way have you come to accept some types of extra-biblical revelation?
- f. What are the long term implications of this practice for the Church?

**C. Red Letter Evangelicals – “The Word of God is understood and interpreted by the Words of Christ”**

1. Red Letter Evangelicals” place the words of Christ above those of the other writings in the scripture. This sounds fine as long as you view the books of the Bible as the thoughts of men. In that case, of course Christ’s words would be taken over Paul’s, or Peter’s or even Moses’.

2. Issues:

In the project below, read the statement, next read the proof text, lastly, state how the statement is established by the proof text.

- a. The revelation of all members of the Trinity is equal – II Timothy 3:16
- b. How would the conviction that the Word of God is understood in light of the words of Christ leave open to question areas which Christ did not speak to.
  - 1.) “What about women leadership in the Church?”
  - 2.) “What about homosexuals?”
  - 3.) How would the statement, “Christ was silent”, bring into question the clarity with which the Word of God speaks to these and other issues.
- c. If Jesus is the final authority on all issues that are controversial, how would that impact the following issues which He did not address in His earthly ministry?
  - a. Homosexuality
  - b. Women leadership in the church
  - c. Drunkenness

d. Elder rule

e. Since Jesus is silent on these issues are we free to say, “Since Jesus did not take a stand on these issues in His ministry, then neither should we.”

**D. Evangelical Pragmatism – “The Word of God is understood by what works”**

1. Examples: Modern “Seeker Churches” and the para-church movements.
  - a. This often brings with it the following statement - “I know what the Bible says but the reality is if we do it that way we will be a small player in the modern church movement and needlessly marginalize ourselves over a non-issue.”
  - b. Verse in the Word of God on such issues such as women in leadership, divorce and remarriage, spanking, are recognized as inspired and inerrant but simply do not work. As such certain passages simply no longer make sense to the evangelical pragmatist. “If we do this then we cannot maintain our growth, so it must not mean what it says, perhaps someday we will know what it means”
  - c. The evangelical pragmatist readily recognizes the variance of his ministry from certain passages in the Word of God. He feels bad about this but recognizes equally that they no longer work. They might have worked one day, they may work again, but they do not work now. In his Bible studies, “What does the God say in this verse?” is replaced by “What does this verse mean to you?” Since all is filtered through the grid of numerical growth, certain verse simply cannot mean what they seem and are therefore, no matter how clearly stated, relegated to the obscure, that class of verses which simply do not make sense. “Someday, when we get to heaven, we will know.”
  - d. Evangelical pragmatists embrace the self-help paradigm of our culture. The Word of God is valued on the basis of how “helpful” it is to the individual or ministry. This is what is authentic, what is relevant. Thus many passages which are difficult, which are not “productive” or “helpful” simply cease to have meaning. These passages are no longer authoritative and will be skipped over. They are “problem” passages which just cause difficulties and are best avoided.
  - e. Recently, an international leader of a para-church group stated to his staff, “Nearly all doctrinal disagreements are in reality personality conflicts.” This reduction of truth to personality cult is essential for the evangelical pragmatist.

2. Issues

How do the following verses bring into question evangelical pragmatism?

- a. Definition of success – Matthew 7:13; John 6:66
- b. Definition of disciple – John 8:31
- c. Definition of the Word of God – Hebrews 4:12
- d. The worlds reaction to the Word – II Timothy 4:3 & 4
- e. How will we as a church respond if the truth results in shrinking membership roles?

- f. Why is it that we idolize heroes in the Bible or the past whose stand for truth resulted in persecution, deprivation and a shrinking following, but tend to fire our church leadership when the same thing happens?

E. **Evangelical Mysticism** – “The Word of God is understood and interpreted by my own spiritual experience(s).”

1. Examples

- a. The Charismatic and Pentecostal churches are prime examples of this movement.
  - 1.) Doctrines are openly taught and propagated based on spiritual experience. Dreams, visions, angelic appliances, ministries of demonic deliverance, after death experiences, gifts entailing extra-biblical revelation and more are substantiated based on experience.
  - 2.) The fact that seeming good results is enough to justify virtually any experience, no matter how far it deviates from the revealed Word of God.
- b. When confronted with the Word of God the reply is, “I do not know the Bible as well as you, I can’t quote all the verses you can quote, you can talk me into doctrinal circles, but I do know what I experienced and you can’t take that away from me.”
  - 1.) The mantra of Evangelical Mysticism: “I don’t know what the Bible says, but I know what I experienced”
  - 2.) The Truth: “I don’t know what the Bible says so I don’t know what I have experienced.”

2. Issues

In the project below, read the statement, next read the proof text, lastly, state how the statement is established by the proof text.

- a. Revelation 22:18 & 19 – The period of Revelation has closed.
- b. II Corinthians 5:7 – The Word of God, not experience dictates what we believe.
- c. Matthew 7:22 & 23; II Thessalonians 2:9 – “Good Miracles” are determined by the Word of God, not by the temporal outcome of our experience or observations.
- d. Hebrews 4:12 – The Word of God judges all experiences, our experience does not judge the Word of God.
- e. I Corinthians 13:12 – We are just not spiritual enough to understand spiritual events apart from the Word of God.
- f. Do you really believe that the Word of God carries more authority than experience? Write a brief answer to each of the following...
  - 1.) If the Bible says “No” and you or someone experiences “Yes” will you

continue to stand with the Bible?

- 2.) If the Bible says “Yes” and you or someone you know experiences “No” will you continue to stand with the Bible?
- 3.) If you have the Bible and someone else has a miracles, who will most likely believe?
- 4.) If you had the chance to go to a service where the Bible was being taught or go to a service where miracles were being performed, which would you choose?

**F. Classic Evangelical Reformation Theology – “The Word of God is understood and interpreted by the Word of God.”**

In the project below, read the statement, next read the proof text, lastly, state how the statement is established by the proof text.

1. The Word of God is the sole revelation – Revelation 22:18 & 19

*Revelation 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.*

2. The authority of the Word of God is based upon it’s divine revelation and inspiration of the Holy Spirit – II Peter 1:21

*for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. All aspects of the Word of God are equally authoritative - II Timothy 3:16*

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*

3. We do not judge the Word of God, it judges us. - Hebrews 4:12

*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

4. We do not manipulate the Word of God - II Corinthians 4:2

*but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

## II. Application

- A. In discussing an issue with any of the above groups, understand that the root issue is their view of and relationship to the Word of God. Unless you first...
  - 1. Agree upon the authority and sufficiency of the Word of God
  - 2. There can be no agreement upon the most basic doctrines of the faith
    - a. The Nature of God
    - b. The Sufficiency of Christ
    - c. The Authority and Sufficiency of the Word of God
  - 3. When grappling with issues, make sure you are truly going back to the Word of God.
- B. The difference between evangelical reformation doctrine of the and these groups is not simply one of worship style or personality.
  - 1. It is not that the intellectuals are drawn to the benefits of other religions, the Catholics enjoy a more formal worship style, the Charismatics are more gregarious and outgoing, others more pragmatic, while still others have a more mystical bent
  - 2. The issues here strike at the heart of the doctrine of the Word of God.
  - 3. The answer to the questions, “Why can’t we all just get along”
  - 4. Is, “Because we cannot compromise on the most fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith simply for the sake of all getting along”
- C. Understanding what the Bible is not can be as important as understanding what the Bible is.
  - 1. The Bible is not a revelation of past comic/spiritual breakthroughs to help us recognize similar breakthroughs in our time/space reality.
  - 2. The Bible is not a revelation of what God did in one culture or age to be used in recognizing and contextualizing the work of the Spirit in our age and culture.
  - 3. The Bible is not a revelation of God’s evolutionary relationship with man, to help us understand the next stage of this progressive understanding of who and what God is.
  - 4. The Bible is not a peek into the past relationships of man with God that we might anticipate and understand future relationships and cosmic events.
  - 5. The Bible is not a starting point for man, a spring board so to speak, from which we develop our own understanding of who God is and what He does.
  - 6. The Bible is not a revelation of what God did or has done, that we might imagine what He is doing or will do.
  - 7. The Bible, rather is the Revelation of God, it is the Word of God, it is to be submitted to by man, it evaluates mankind, not vice versa. All that is needed is revealed, all that is hidden is done so purposefully by God.
- D. If the Word of God is understood and interpreted by the Word of God, then a thorough grasp of the entire revelation of God is essential.
  - 1. This moves a daily reading of the Word of God where by the entire Bible is read through on a minimum of one time each year a priority.
  - 2. The computer and or concordance is no substitute for the personal reading of the Word of God.
    - a. The ability to use a spell check, does not mean you know or understand the principles of language, spelling and usage.
    - b. The ability to use a calculator does not mean you know or understand the principles of mathematics.
    - c. The ability to read phonetically does not mean you know or understand the words you are reading.
    - d. The ability to find words using a concordance or computer does not mean you know or understand the words you are teaching.



**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME: The Word of God**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 22:18 & 19**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?**

**Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Deuteronomy 29:29**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?**

**Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Timothy 3:16**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?**

**Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

*JEREMIAH 15:16*

**THEME: The Word of God**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 4:12**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?**

**Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: James 4:11 & 12**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?**

**Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Peter 1:20 & 21**

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?**

**Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**