



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#80)  
Good News –  
Conviction – accepting all that the Bible says.

1

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN SALVATION...

**WE ALREADY LOOKED AT GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY.**  
We learn about what God did as we read about it in Scripture.

What we do involves (1) **CONVICTION**, which leads to (2) **CHANGE**. These result in (3) **CONSEQUENCES**.

**TODAY:**  
Finishing our focus on: **#1 Conviction** → Responding to what God says.

2

### CONVICTION INVOLVES OUR RESPONSE TO THE FACTS OF SCRIPTURE:

We must not only be made aware of the facts... we must accept them as true – the very words of God.

THIS MEANS ACCEPTING THE BIBLE AS TRUE AND ACCURATE.

**THIS MUST BE OUR ATTITUDE:**  
When you received God's word from us, you realized it wasn't the word of humans. Instead, you accepted it for what it really is—the word of God. This word is at work in you believers.  
1 Thes. 2:13b (GW)

3


**IF THIS IS OUR ATTITUDE...** it's evidence that the Spirit of God is NOT at work in our lives.

WHAT'S THE "MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS" FOR SALVATION?

WHAT'S THE LEAST AMOUNT OF THE BIBLE I NEED TO ACCEPT?

IT'S UNREASONABLE TO DEMAND THAT WE ACCEPT ALL THE BIBLE!

I'LL JUST CHOP OUT THIS LIST OF TEACHINGS I DON'T LIKE!



4

**YOU CAN EXPECT**

**THE WORLD WILL HAVE A VIEW ON EVERYTHING.**  
(Often many contradictory views.)

**It's VIEWS WILL DISAGREE WITH THE BIBLE.**  
(Sometimes opposing it; sometimes imitating it.)

**YOU CANNOT EXPECT**

**... TO BE SAVED, IF YOU REFUSE TO CHANGE YOUR VIEWS.**

CHANGE IS MANDATORY!

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.  
Romans 12:2a (NIV)

5

**ACCEPTING THE BIBLE IN ITS ENTIRETY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ISSUE.**

People scoffed at the Bible in the apostle's day... they will do it increasingly, as these "last days" come to a close.

In the last days blatant **scoffers** will come, being **propelled by their own evil urges** and saying, "Where is his promised return? For ever since our ancestors died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation."  
For **they deliberately suppress this fact**, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water. Through these things the world existing at that time was destroyed when it was deluged with water. But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, by being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.  
2 Peter 3:3-7 (NET)

6

**FALSE TEACHERS** → WILL CATER TO THE WORLD'S DESIRE TO HEAR WHAT IT WANTS TO HEAR.

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.  
2 Tim. 4:3 (NIV)

THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN AND OFTEN REVISED. PEOPLE EXPRESSED THEIR OWN OPINIONS AND SUPERSTITIONS.

EVEN IF WE DECIDE TO HAVE "FAITH," WE CAN IGNORE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE REST OF LIFE – SCIENCE, HISTORY, HUMAN INTERACTIONS, VALUES, etc.

**WRONG!**

**"THE CHANGING OF THE FACTS"**

Whether they're adding, subtracting, or in other ways modifying the teachings of Scripture, they've been doing it since the beginning of the church (and actually, ever since sin entered the world).

**THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID:** I know full well that **false teachers**, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some of you will **distort** the truth in order to draw a following. Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.  
Acts 20:29-31 (NLT)

**THE APOSTLE PETER SAID:** [Paul's] letters contain some things that are hard\* to understand, which **ignorant and unstable people distort**, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.  
2 Peter 3:16b (NIV)

\* (Understanding some parts of Scripture may be "hard," but it's not "impossible.")

THE WORLD IS FULL OF PEOPLE WHO WILL TELL YOU THAT YOU **DON'T** NEED TO ACCEPT THE BIBLE FACTS IN ORDER TO BE SAVED.  
\* **BUT THEY DIDN'T GET THAT VIEW FROM THE BIBLE!** \*

THE BIBLE WASN'T MEANT TO BE TREATED AS A FACT BOOK!

YOU NEED TO DECIDE FOR YOURSELF WHAT YOU WANT TO BELIEVE!

LOVE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN DOCTRINE!

WE JUST NEED THE "POSITIVE" THINGS!

WE NEED "FAITH," NOT DOCTRINE!

THE BIBLE HAS "EVOLVED" DOWN THROUGH THE AGES! IT'S BEEN REVISED MANY TIMES!

THE BIBLE ISN'T A TEXT BOOK ABOUT SCIENCE, SO YOU CAN IGNORE WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT CREATION AND HUMAN NATURE!

TO BE RELEVANT IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, WE NEED TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!

THE WRITERS' VIEWS WERE INFLUENCED BY THE SOCIETY WHERE THEY LIVED!

YOU CAN'T KNOW WHAT THE AUTHORS REALLY MEANT!

THE BIBLE GIVES US INSPIRATIONAL STORIES, NOT HISTORY LESSONS!

ALL FAITHS HAVE "INSPIRED" WRITINGS!

IN EVERY CASE, IT COMES BACK TO THE SAME ISSUE:  
**THEY DIDN'T GET THAT VIEW FROM THE BIBLE!**

... there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, ...  
2 Peter 2:1b (NIV)

"... they replace God's commands with their own man-made teachings."  
Mark 7:7b (NLT), a quote from Isaiah 29:13.

Jesus replied, "Your problem is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God."  
Matthew 22:29 (NLT)

Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.  
Matthew 15:6b (NIV)

... and you pervert the words of the living God, the LORD of Armies, our God.  
Jeremiah 23:36b (CSB)

YOUR VIEW OF THE **GOOD NEWS FACTS**

IGNORANT MISTAKES?

MYTHS?

ERRORS?

FICTION?

PEOPLE'S OPINIONS?

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES?

INFLUENCED BY SOCIETY?

SUPERSTITION?

**God's FACTS!**

makes all the difference.

**"How can I know what the Bible says? Even churches can't agree about it!"**

The problem is not the Word of God but the people.  
NEVER does Scripture place the blame on the Word of God.

There are many reasons for this problem. (Some examples...)

- ✓ Different levels of spiritual growth; new-born vs. mature followers.
- ✓ Paying more attention to people's teachings, than to the Bible.
- ✓ False teachers promoting the world's views; apostate "churches."
- ✓ Different worship preferences; cultural and historic backgrounds.
- ✓ Misunderstandings; over-emphasis on some matters, to the neglect of others.
- ✓ Also, the effects of sin are not yet *totally* removed from *any* of us.

**THE BIG ISSUE IS THIS:**

At the Day of Judgment, we will not be responsible for the viewpoints and differences of others, whether they be right or wrong. We will be held accountable for our response to Scripture.

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We don't need to have "100% perfect" knowledge of the truth. But we need to be pursuing it.

There is a huge – eternally significant – difference between:

- ✓ A PERSON WHO has mistaken views, but is eagerly learning from Scripture and willing to change – to accept and obey what it says...  
 >> AND <<
- ✓ A PERSON WHO knows what the Bible says and chooses to not accept it (whether this involves denying or distorting it).

13

CONCLUSION...  
 The FIRST step of salvation involves:

Conviction

Paying attention to what God has said!

DOING THIS WILL INFLUENCE HOW WE LIVE.

IF "CONVICTION" MEANS I MUST ACCEPT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS...

DOES IT MEAN I ONLY HAVE TO BELIEVE A LIST OF FACTS?

IT'S MORE THAN THAT!

IT MEANS RESHAPING THE WAY YOU THINK AND LIVING A LIFE THAT IS INFLUENCED BY THOSE FACTS.

Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves.  
 James 1:22 (GW)

14

**CONVICTION OF THE FACTS** → **WILL LEAD US TOWARD** → **LIVING ACCORDING TO THE FACTS.**

- Some facts may influence our perceptions of reality.
- Some facts may influence our values.
- Some facts imply commands that influence our conduct.

SCRIPTURE ISN'T JUST FOR "SALVATION" ...

... the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

... IT'S FOR "LIVING."

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.  
 2 Tim. 3:15b-17 (NIV)

15

To "ACCEPT" THE BIBLE IMPLIES A WILLINGNESS TO "OBEY" IT.

\* Otherwise, you're still a slave to sin. \*

So Jesus said ... "If you live by what I say, you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."  
 John 8:31-32 (GW)

IF: You reach this point of ACCEPTING what the Bible says... not just knowing the truth, but willing to live by it...

THEN: You're on your way to the second step of salvation: **CHANGE!**  
 (God willing, this will be our next focus.)

16

This week's MISSION!

( Regarding: #1 Conviction )

CONSIDER Jesus' words.

Have you reached this point?

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Or are you like this?

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."  
 Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV)

17

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18