

Christianity: The Basics

What is our GPS?

(The Authority of the Bible)

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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“Talking Points, Walking Points” is a publication of the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God’s kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

- The Apostle Peter says “**You must pay close attention** to what the prophets wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place.” (2 Peter 1:19). Tell about a time you were in a dark, unfamiliar place. What could have happened (or **did happen!**) to you? How did light help you out?

Tell about a time when someone warned you of a danger that you didn’t adequately appreciate.

What dangers lie ahead for those who don’t adequately appreciate the warnings of Scripture?

- Pastor Doug noted that Jesus did not treat Scripture as some abstract authority; it controlled everything he thought, said, and did. To what degree does Scripture control your words and actions? Tell about a time you stopped saying or doing something because of a direct teaching of Scripture.

If you **don’t** obey Scripture, **who** suffers?

- Mark the five occurrences of the word “slave” in Romans 6:16-20. Explain this: “**Everyone** a slave.”

What results from slavery to sin? to righteousness? Give an example of each from your own experience.

Read John 8:31-34. The Jews to whom Jesus spoke did not **feel** as if they were slaves, but Jesus said that they were. Do you **feel** as if **you** are a slave to sin? According to v. 34—**are** you one?

- Tell about when you felt “boxed in”, when “your back was against the wall” and you had few options.

Now, read Psalm 119:45 & 96. The words “liberty/freedom” (v. 45) and “exceedingly broad/without limits” (v. 96) are the same Hebrew word, which literally means “broadness” or “open space”.

Many people think that God’s commands “box them in”. According to v. 45, what **actually** is true?

According to v. 96, God’s Word **goes beyond** the limits of perfection!

What is **your** attitude toward God’s authoritative Word?

Application-Challenge

Accept the Bible’s authority over your life.

See it in light of the gospel. Place yourself

under its authority day in and day out—and it **will** change you!



Sermon Summary

Key Text: 2 Peter 1:12-21

Nothing is more foundational to how we live as Christians than our view of the Bible, which is why we are spending three weeks talking about its uniqueness. Last week we discussed its historicity; today we will cover its authority, which relies heavily on 2 Peter 1:12-21.

Why the Bible is authoritative.

- God speaks to us through eye witness accounts of Jesus' life recorded in the New Testament.
- God speaks to us through His prophetic word of the Old Testament.
- Many of the prophecies recorded in the Old Testament found their fulfillment in the New Testament. In that sense, the New Testament verified the authenticity and authority of the Old Testament.
- Jesus himself often referred to Old Testament Scripture, even those known to be human commentary. For him, all Scripture is considered to be God's Word. In Matthew 5, Jesus says that every letter of the Bible is divinely inspired and it was the operating principle of his life.
- Simply speaking, the Bible presents itself as authoritative.

Why it's a good thing that the Bible is authoritative.

- Other authorities will not be as safe and correct as the Bible.
- Our choices are usually governed by our feelings, and our feelings are contradictory--they are not a sound, authoritative basis for making decisions.
- Your decisions are often framed within what is acceptable to your culture, meaning that you are not the authority of your life--your culture is.
- Only Scripture can illuminate your flawed, delusional authority over yourself and show the right way to live.
- If the Bible is your authority it liberates you emotionally and intellectually. Emotionally because what God thinks matters more than what others think, and intellectually because you do not have to be subject to the whims of theories and cultural trends. Biblical truths are trans-cultural and trans-temporal.
- Because the Bible is radically personal because it tells us that God wants to walk in an eternal love relationship with Him.

How the Bible's authority works in our lives. It works in three ways:

- It works through the will. There will be times that we obey God's word as an act of will regardless of whether we understand or agree.
- It works through the heart. As we obey God as an act of will, we see the fruit of that obedience and it begins to soften and change our hearts.
- It works through practice. You need regular reminders of God's authority, of His grace, power and mercy. You need to ask God to work out the authority of the Bible in your life until you are liberated emotionally and intellectually and are walking in wisdom in the light of God's love for you.

Creating "God Space": "God Space" is where cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people can safely raise their questions, reservations, & doubts because we have listened well and demonstrated love in practical, authentic ways.

- If a neighbor or friend at work said to you, **"You go to church?! What kind of stuff to do there?"**, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in plain language that anyone could understand?
- How do you think you could help a non-believer consider the **benefits** of the idea of God's authority?

Are you resisting the Bible's authority?
To speak to a counselor, write to:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time

“Five Question Bible Study” (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage or topic. We can use it to grow in our appreciation of the authority of Scripture...*

Monday—The phrase “**Thus says the Lord...**” occurs 419x in the Bible! What does **this** tell you?

Tuesday—**Human beings** (prophets) would say, “**Thus says the Lord...**”. What does **that** tell you?

Wednesday—Read Matthew 28:18. Do Jesus and his words have **this** level of authority in **your** life?

Thursday—Read Jude 25. List the qualities we are to ascribe to God. How are you doing at this?

Friday—Read John 7:17. What must be true of us in order for us to know God’s authoritative truth?

Saturday—*In preparation for worshipping our risen Lord with your church family,*
read Hebrews 1:1-4.

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]