

THE BIBLE IS THE BOOK

Solomon said “Of making many books there is no end,” (Eccl. 12:12), but ONE book is superior to all books—

Most baseball fans around here know who “the man” is. Stan “The Man” Musial, was given that nickname because he was a superior ball player. In the world of baseball, he was not just considered a man but “the man.”

The word “Bible” is from a Latin word meaning “book.” Being superior to all other books, it is not just a book but the book. Evidence proves that the Bible is the only book wherein God has spoken to man (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Micah 5:2; Daniel 2:44).

The Introduction to the Book of Mormon says that it is the “most correct of any book on earth.” Thus, the Book of Mormon claims to be superior to the Bible but provides no evidence. God warned against books

like this in Galatians 1:6-9. After you read those verses, you will see the irony in the fact that Mormons claim that an angel helped to bring this book!

Do you treat the Bible as “the book”? Do you read other books instead of learning what the Bible says on the subject of parenting, establishing or mending a marriage, baptism, or drinking alcohol? Books written by psychologists, doctors, “pastors,” and church creeds fill American shelves and minds while the Bible is ignored. Without “the book” you cannot know “the God” OR what is true.

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SCRIPTURE: GOD’S OFFICIAL TEACHINGS

In Matthew 15:1-2, the scribes and Pharisees criticized Jesus’ disciples for not following the tradition of the elders. Jesus said that those who included the tradition of the elders in their official teaching and practice were “teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” and thus were “blind leaders of the blind” (v9, 14).

Today, Scripture is the official teaching of God. It gives God’s “official position” on marriage (Matt. 19:1-9), salvation (Mk. 16:16), worship (Jn. 4:24; Acts 2:42), the church (Acts 2:47), and everything that man needs to know. Thus, Scripture provides the “official teachings” of the church of Christ. The church’s duty is to follow and spread God’s official teachings, not create new ones.

The official teachings of the Methodist Church are in the Methodist Discipline. The Book of Concord contains the official teachings of the Lutheran Church. The official teachings of the Catholic Church are found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Since God already gave His official teachings, what purpose do these books serve? The disciplines, catechisms, and traditions of men will never unite men in Christ, but the Bible will. That is our appeal for religious unity.

SACRAMENTS & CHURCH ORDINANCES

By using only the Bible, what can you find about “sacraments” or “church ordinances”?

The Catholic Encyclopedia defines sacraments as “outward signs of inward grace,” listing the nature, origin, number, effects, minister, and recipients of the sacraments (naming seven sacraments). Some religious groups reject all “sacraments,” but declare “church ordinances” among their “articles of faith,” often setting that number at two.

This partially explains modern religious division. Neither Jesus, nor His apostles taught about “sacraments,” so why would we? Did Jesus really only ordain two things for the church?

In the New Testament, the church assembled for a variety of God-given purposes: to pray, to be teach/learn, for the fellowship (collection), the Lord’s Supper, and singing (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:15). These are just a few of the things Jesus and the apostles ordained (commanded).

There is no unity in Christ when men declare things God did not reveal. Unity is available by simply speaking as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11). By this, no one will teach seven sacraments or only two church ordinances.

Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying: Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. (Jer. 30:2)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM
Bible classes: 10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible
Classes & Worship:
7:00 PM

QUESTIONS ATHEISTS ASK: DID GOD CREATE EVIL?

When God created man, there were no atheists but that has changed. Today, sometimes such people ask “If God created all things, then didn’t He create evil?”

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us (Deut. 29:29). We can only know what God has revealed. The universe reveals His existence by displaying His power, but anything else we want to know about Him must come from the Bible. Evidence proves the Bible is trustworthy.

God created beings who could choose to follow or leave Him. Before any chose to leave Him, evil was not a reality. The one who offers a choice between good and evil and identifies good, cannot be blamed if some choose evil. Is a schoolteacher who begins class at 9:00 at fault when students choose to come at 9:30? No, and neither can God be blamed for evil. Those who choose evil deserve blame.

God is good (Matt. 19:17). Satan, the father of lies, and rebellious angels await eternal punishment (Jn. 8:44; Jude 6). With whom will you spend eternity?

Questions from this month’s articles:

1. What is the meaning of the word “Bible”?
2. When the official teachings of the Pharisees were different than God’s, what did Jesus say?
3. Name four duties that God has given the church.
4. When God gave the first angels the choice to either obey or disobey Him, did any evil yet exist?

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501 OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* Visit with us APRIL 15-20, weeknights at 7:00PM, during our spring gospel meeting. For more information call 793-6700; 569-4491 OR visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM** for topics of the week.