

# Changing the Way You Think

## The Authority of Scripture (Part 1)

### Having Ears to Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church

1. Examine the Genuineness of Our Love for Christ
2. Consider the Influence and Pressures of Cultural Values and Morals of this World and How They May Have Blinded Us from Truth
3. Search Our Hearts and See if We Have Made a Place for Sin & Self to Thrive
4. Take Inventory of Our Commitment to Following Jesus, Carrying Our Cross Behind Him

*“You Have Left Your First Love” (Revelation 2:1-7)*

*“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments” (John 14:15)*

**John 14:15-18, 21, 23-26**

<sup>15</sup> **“If you love me, obey my commandments.** <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. <sup>17</sup> He is the **Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.** The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you... <sup>21</sup> **Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me.** And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

**“All who love me will do what I say.** My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. <sup>25</sup> I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> **But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.**

- **3 Times Jesus Defines Our Love for Him As Our Obedience to His Teachings**
- **He Also Validates the Coming Teachings of the Holy Spirit As His Official Representative**
  - Who Will Lead His Disciples into “All Truth”
    - These Disciples Record These Truths in the New Testament

**What I fear as a Pastor, and what I have feared for many years now, is the constant, unrelenting, desensitizing hum of culture that is slowly eroding the confidence of Modern Christians’ faith in the Word of God.**

**2 Timothy 4:3-5**

**For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will reject the truth and chase after myths. <sup>5</sup> But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don’t be afraid of suffering for the Lord. **Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.****

- **2:5 “I will remove your lampstand (Witness) from its place—unless you repent.”**

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic...or else he would be the Devil of Hell. **You must make your choice.** Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

C. S. Lewis  
Mere Christianity

## In the Same Way, “You Must Make Your Choice” About Scripture

*Many believe the Bible is full of wisdom and good advice, but see it as outdated in some of its moral standards, values, and restrictions.*

### 2 Timothy 3:15-17

You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is inspired by God** and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> **God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.**

### 2 Peter 1:20-21

Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were **moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.**

### 2 Peter 3:15-16

Our beloved brother **Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him**— speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have **twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.**

## Counterfeits of Truth

Although the Bible is an incredible privilege, and it is readily accessible to almost everyone, many modern Christians struggle to live out a biblically-grounded faith. Instead many rely more on:

- **Personal Preference**
- **Religious Tradition**
- **Cultural Morals and Values**

**Judges 21:25** In those days Israel had no king; **everyone did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.**