

Asking for a Friend

“Out-Dated Book?” – Matthew 5:17-18

August 23, 2026

Back to School Sermon Series

ASKING FOR A FRIEND	
Seeking Answers to Questions That We All Want to Ask	
Date	Message Title
Aug 16	PROBLEM OF EVIL: If God is Good and All-Powerful, Then Why is There So Much Suffering, Disease, and Tragedy in the World?
Aug 23	OUT-DATED BOOK: Doesn't the Bible's Views About Slavery and Women Make It Unreliable and Not Relevant for Today?
Aug 30	HYPOCRITES: Why Should I Come to Church When It's Made Up of a Bunch of Hypocrites?
Sept 6	INTOLERANCE: Isn't It Intolerant and Unfair to Claim That Jesus is the Only Way to Heaven? What About Other Religions? What About Good People Who Have Never Heard of Jesus?
Sept 13	SCIENCE: How Do You Reconcile Scientific Evidence Like Evolution with the Creation Story? Don't Science and the Bible Contradict Each Other?
Sept 20	PURPOSE: What on Earth Am I Here For? What is My Purpose?

Today's Question

- Eric Metaxas' "Revolution" – George Washington and Nathan Hale
- Question: How do you know that Washington and Hale were real?
- Faith is not the absence of doubt, but rather faith is believing in spite of doubts and questions. Doubt always coexists with faith, for in the presence of certainty who would need faith at all?
- **Hebrews 11:1** – *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*
- TODAY'S QUESTION: Doesn't the Bible's views about slavery and women make it unreliable and not relevant for today?

Seven Reasons Why I Believe That the Bible is the Fully Reliable, Fully Relevant, and Fully True Word of God

1. Because it claims to be **God's Word** and fully true
 - Over 2000 times the Bible says, "Thus said the Lord." Over 160 times the Book of Exodus says, "God spoke all these words."
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*
 - **2 Peter 1:20-21** – *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

- **1 Thessalonians 2:13** – *And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.*
- **Psalms 33:4** – *The word of the Lord is right and true.*
- **Psalms 119:160** – *All your words are true.*
- **Proverbs 30:5** – *Every word of God is flawless.*

2. Because **Jesus** believed it was fully true

- Four examples of Jesus' view of the Bible:
 - ✓ **Matthew 5:17-18**
 - ✓ **Matthew 22:41-45**
 - ✓ **Matthew 12:40**
 - ✓ **Matthew 24:37-39**
- **John 17:17** – *Your word is truth.* (Luke 17:28-29; John 10:30-38).

3. Because Jesus believed the Bible was God's fully true Word and then validated His claims through His **resurrection** from the dead

- **1 Corinthians 15:3-6** – *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time.*

4. Because fulfilled **prophecies** support the Bible being God's fully true Word

- Eight prophetic predictions made 100s of years before Jesus

Prediction about Messiah	Fulfillment in Jesus
Place of birth – Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1-6
Virgin birth – Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23
Betrayed for 30 silver piece – Zechariah 11:12-13	Matthew 26:15; 27:3,7
Nailed to cross – Psalm 22:16	John 19:18; 20:25
Gambled for his clothes – Psalm 22:18	Matthew 27:35
No broken bones – Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20	John 19:33-36
Gall/vinegar given to Him – Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34
Forsaken by God – Psalm 22:1	Matthew 27:46

- The statistical chances of any one man fulfilling 8 different prophecies all at once are 1 out of 100 quadrillion (10¹⁷)
- The actual number of prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ = 333

5. Because **archaeological** discoveries support the Bible being God's fully true Word

- Harold Sala: "Vast numbers of archaeological findings corroborate the context of the Bible historically in matters of data, names, places, customs, and practices."

- Archaeologist Nelson Glueck: “It can be categorically stated that not one single archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical text.”
- Rec: Erwin Lutzer’s “Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible”
- YouTube: “9 Discoveries That Confirm the Bible” [8:04]

6. Because the Bible does not run **from** our hard questions about women and slavery – it runs **towards** them.

- The Bible does not avoid the controversial subjects. It tackles them head-on including two of the most difficult subjects imaginable: women and slavery. If the Bible were simply religious propaganda, you would expect it to sanitize its history, hide embarrassing realities, and make its heroes look good. But it doesn’t. The Bible tells the truth about the world in which it was written. It acknowledges slavery. It records patriarchal structures. It preserves difficult passages about women. But at the same time, it introduces a radically different vision of human dignity: men and women are created in God’s image; slaves are to be treated as brothers and sisters in Christ; and in Christ there is “neither slave nor free” and “neither male nor female.” The Bible does not pretend that the world is unbroken. It tells the truth about our broken world while pointing us toward God’s better world. That’s not an outdated book. That’s a book that understands humanity.
- **ON SLAVERY:** The Bible contains laws regulating slavery, and the New Testament addresses Christ-followers who were slaves and masters. The Bible does not reproduce the surrounding culture’s assumptions. It introduces principles that profoundly challenge the institution – namely, the slave is your brother!
- **Philemon 1:16** – (Consider Onesimus) *no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother.*
- **ON WOMEN:** The Bible does not give us a simplistic picture of women. It gives us a complicated picture because it is telling the story of God’s revelation within a complicated, fallen human world. The Bible does not pretend that the ancient world was egalitarian. Rather, in the midst of a patriarchal world, the Bible elevates women. Eve is co-commissioned with Adam to rule over the earth (Gen 1:28). Deborah ruled the nation of Israel (Judges 4:4-9); Esther leads the Jewish nation to fast (Esther 4:16). Miriam is called a leader alongside Moses and Aaron (Micah 6:4). Huldah is a prophetess sought out by the king (2 Kings 22:14). Joel declared that sons and daughters would prophesy (Joel 2:28). Priscilla was a leader who taught Apollos (Acts 18:26). The daughters of Philip prophesied (Acts 21:9). Phoebe was a female deacon (Rom 16:1). Junias was a female apostle (Rom 16:7). John wrote to a female leader of a house church (2 John 1). And the first people to proclaim the resurrection message were women (Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 24:10).
- Rec: Preston Sprinkle’s “From Genesis to Junia”

7. Because **changed lives** validate the Bible being fully true

- James Kennedy: “I don’t know of a single atheist who claims to have been improved as a human being by their atheism.”
- Because it has changed MY life!!!!

Today’s Application – My response to what I’ve heard today is...

- ☐ I’m going to have a Billy Graham moment where I lay my Bible before God and accept it as the fully true Word of God:

My Declaration Regarding the Bible

Today, I choose to accept the Bible as God’s Word, fully true, and I will submit myself to its words as the #1 authority in my life. With God’s help, I will submit myself to what the Bible has to say about my singleness, my sexuality, my married life, my parenting, my finances, my work life, my health, my habits, my worship, my time, my decision-making... everything.

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- ☐ I’m going to respond to the #1 priority of the Bible – having a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ: “Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God who died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead, and I receive You into my life. I choose to follow You.”
- ☐ I’m going to get baptized on Sept 13: WhatIsGrace.org/Baptism
- ☐ I’m going to take Alpha as a way to explore the claims of the Bible and to learn how to begin and grow in my faith. Alpha starts Tues, Sept 15, at 6:30pm. More info here: WhatIsGrace.org/Alpha
- ☐ I’m going to begin a regular habit of reading God’s Word, meditating on its meaning and application to my life, and praying it back to God (recommend: Quiet Time Journal).
- ☐ I’m going to obey what God’s Word says about...
 - ✓ My marriage (Gen 2:24-25; Eph. 5:21-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Malachi 2:16)
 - ✓ My parenting (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:14-15; Ephesians 6:1-4)
 - ✓ My sexuality (Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinth 6:9-20; 7:1-7)
 - ✓ My finances (Proverbs 3:9-10; 6:1-11; 2 Corinth 9:6-11; 1 Tim 6:6-10)
 - ✓ My priorities (Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 5:15-20)
- ☐ I’m going to share God’s Word with others.

Bottom Line: The Bible isn’t a book to update – it’s a Word to obey.