



Chapter and Verse: Honest Questions about the Bible

Part Three: Is the Bible Perfect? Sermon Study Guide 7/24/16 The Story Houston

Why do you think discussions about the Bible's inerrancy (and/or contradictions) get so heated?
 What's at stake for people on both sides of the argument?

What's your take? Before today's sermon, how would you have answered the question, *Is the Bible flawless?*

How Did the Bible Come to Be?

When and how was the Old Testament (or "Hebrew Bible") put together?

When and how did the New Testament take shape?

What were the **four criteria** early Christians used to determine whether a book belonged in the Bible?

1. _____
Notes:
2. _____
Notes:
3. _____
Notes:
4. _____
Notes:

Christians of different stripes hold three different views on the perfection (inerrancy) of Scripture:

Absolutists
Centrists
Skeptics

Is the Bible perfect?

What's at stake?

Can Christians disagree?

What about contradictions?



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What is lacking from the **Absolutist** argument on Biblical inerrancy?
 What sorts of contradictions and discrepancies exist in the Bible, and why?

What is lacking from the **Skeptical** argument?
 How can we learn to hold a high view of Scripture, even in light of apparent contradictions and errors in the Bible?

Is the Bible authoritative because a bunch of religious men said so? *Quotes to consider...*

"What is particularly important to notice is that the New Testament canon was **not demarcated by the arbitrary decree of any Church Council**. When at last a Church Council - the Synod of Hippo in 393 - listed the 27 books of the New Testament, **it did not confer upon them any authority which they did not already possess**, but simply recorded their previously established canonicity (authority)." - F.F. Bruce

"The Church assuredly did not make the New Testament. **The two grew up together.**" - F.J. Foakes Jackson

Three Steps to Reading the Bible Better:

1. **Read the Bible in** _____ (Colossians 3:15-16)
 Notes:

2. **Read the Bible in** _____ (when, where, under what circumstances, author, audience)
 Notes:

3. **Read the Bible in** _____ (Luke 4:14-21)
 Notes:

Luke 4:14-21 ...He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it was written: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*"

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

How does reading the Bible in light of Jesus and his mission change the conversation about Biblical inerrancy?

What does this mean for you, personally, as your faith in Jesus grows?