

Deeper Life Notes

Assurance of God's Word – John 12:9-26
Pastor Dan Osborn, March 20, 2016
Palm Sunday



Watertown
Evangelical
Free Church

Consider

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. EFCA Doctrinal Statement 2008 – The Bible

Ask Three Questions

Who is Jesus?—Study John chapter 1; Hebrews 1

What is the Word of God?—Study 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119

What will we do with the Word of God?—Study John 15; James 1:19-27

Discuss these quotes

“I am not a Christian because God changed my life; I am a Christian because of my convictions about who Jesus is.” Josh McDowell

“To have faith in Christ means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because He has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to Heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of Heaven is already inside you.” C. S. Lewis Mere Christianity

Three spiritual applications

Receive Jesus the Word.

Realize the reliability of God's Word.

Acronym MAPS see www.equip.org/article/bible-reliability-m-a-p-s-to-guide-you-through-bible-reliability

Manuscripts: Tests the **B**ibliographic (manuscripts), **E**yewitness, and **E**xternal (historical/geographical)

Archaeology: Archaeology and careful biblical interpretation

Prophecy: see below

Statistics: Statistically preposterous that prophecies could have been fulfilled through chance.

Consider the implications of fulfilled prophecies of Jesus Christ

Many of these prophecies would have been impossible for Jesus to deliberately conspire to fulfill — such as His descent from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 12:3; 17:19; Numbers 24:21-24); His birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2); His crucifixion with criminals (Isaiah 53:12); the piercing of His hands and feet at the crucifixion (Psalm 22:16); the soldiers' gambling for His clothes (Psalm 22:18); the piercing of His side and the fact that His bones were not broken at His death (Zechariah 12:10; Psalm 34:20); and His burial among the rich (Isaiah 53:9). Jesus also predicted His own death and resurrection (John 2:19-22).

Respect God's Word— How now shall we live?

Does this describe you? If so share your journey. If not what are the barriers?

1. Wave the Palm branch – unashamedly celebrating Jesus as our Savior – RECEIVE!
2. Wave the Palm branch – unashamedly celebrating the reliability of God's Word – REALIZE!
3. Wave the Palm branch – unashamedly celebrating our choice to apply the Word of God – RESPECT!

Liar, Lunatic or Lord?

<http://www.josh.org/daily-devo/liar-lunatic-or-lord-2>

See video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cING5YQbmwl>

Bible Reading

Matthew 16:13-19

You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Matthew 16:16

"YOU'RE SO STUPID," Sean sneered at Heather. "How can you believe that a dead guy rose? Jesus might have been a good person, but he wasn't God."

Oh? Well, Jesus claimed to be God-period. He didn't leave any other option open. Truth is, his claim must either be true or false. Jesus' question to his disciples, *"Who do you say I am?"* (Matthew 16:15), has several alternatives. *Was he a liar?* If Jesus made his claims knowing he wasn't God, then he was lying to his followers. If he was a liar, he was also a hypocrite—a guy who told others to be honest even while he taught and lived a colossal lie. That view of Jesus, however, doesn't jive with what we know of Jesus or the results of his life and teachings. Whenever Jesus has been proclaimed, lives have been changed. Nations have repented. Thieves have gone straight. Alcoholics have tossed their bottles. Hateful individuals have become channels of love. Someone whose life had results like that couldn't have been a phony.

Was he a lunatic? If someone told you he was God, you would believe him about as much as if he said he was Santa Claus. You would call him one deluded and self-deceived dude. Yet Jesus didn't display the abnormalities and imbalance that usually go hand in hand with being crazy. Jesus was a guy who spoke some of the most profound words ever recorded—words that have set free many individuals, even some in mental bondage. Jesus Christ was no lunatic. *Was he Lord?* If Christ isn't a liar or a lunatic, you only have one option: He is who he claimed to be—the Son of God. The issue with these three alternatives isn't *which is possible*. Any of the three could be possible. The question is instead, which is more likely? Nailing down the identity of Jesus Christ can't be an intellectual exercise. You can't put him on the shelf while calling him a great moral teacher. That isn't a valid option. If he was so great and so moral, then what do you do with his claim to be God? If he was a liar or a lunatic, then he can't qualify as a great moral teacher. And if he was a great moral teacher, then he is much more as well. He is either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord God. You have to make the choice.

You have two resources to help you make that choice rightly. One is the historically credible record of Christ's rising from the dead. The other is the Bible. Giving you solid reasons to believe is a huge reason God gave you his book. As John wrote, *"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life"* (John 20:31).

REFLECT

So who do you think Christ is—liar, lunatic, or Lord?

PRAY

Honor Christ as Lord with your praises today.

Study

1 Peter 3:15 Reliability of God's Word: Short articles.

www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/the-study-of-god/how-do-we-know-the-bible-is-true/is-the-bible-reliable

Luke 24:25 *And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"*

2 Timothy 2:15 *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

James 1:22 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

2 Timothy 4:2 *...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*