

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE GOSPEL

The Foundations of Our Faith

Discussion Guide
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Sermon Title ***When Science & The Bible Conflict*** by Paul R. Martin

Isaiah 40: 6-8

Introduction: We have been considering the absolute authority and infallible inerrancy of the Bible relative to all matters upon which it touches. Believers are not in a majority position in this conviction. What do we say and do when the Bible is in conflict with science, other legitimate authority, and culture? In this message we will consider the Bible as it relates to science.

Sermon Outline

I. Preliminary Observations

- A. The Bible is not a book about science or math and is written in common everyday language.
 - 1. "Sunrise and sunset" are not scientific descriptions of what happens
 - 2. An observer's point of view
- B. The scientific method does not conflict with Scripture: both focus on truth
 - 1. The Bible declares truth
 - 2. Science seeks to discover/uncover truth
- C. Many of the world's greatest scientists were devout Christians and many others were unashamed theists (see list)

II. The Nature & Limitations of Scientific Inquiry

- A. The single most important *a priori* assumption of scientific inquiry and the scientific method is *the belief* in an ordered universe that consistently behaves according to universal laws that are predictable and measureable.
- B. The scientific method is based upon a process incorporating this assumption as well as one other important assumption, *namely objectivity*, and includes:
 - 1. careful observation & controlled environment whenever possible
 - 2. accurate description and precise measurements
 - 3. logical deduction and inference (the development of scientific theory)
 - 4. repeatability
 - 5. peer review
- C. The most celebrated and consistent laws of scientific observation include:
 - 1. energy exists and is neither created nor destroyed
 - 2. energy becomes less and less organized and useable as time passes
 - 3. in other words, the universe began highly ordered with maximum available energy and now is observed to be deteriorating and becoming less and less ordered with a foreseeable endpoint of useless chaos

III. The Boundaries of Science and the Nature of Revelation

- A. Science cannot speak with authority or certainty to anything that cannot be observed in the present time
- B. Scientific inquiry is based upon a presumption of objectivity which no human actually possess in absolute terms (winning, being first, being right, intellectual hubris)
- C. Many deeply held scientific facts have been soundly disproved over time (examples).
- D. God has answered life's most pressing and eternally important questions, and the discovery of true truth only supports the Bible—after all, truth is all there is to find, and when we have found it, we have found the only true God, the God of the Bible.

Conclusion As believers we need not be afraid of science, or of seeking truth. We need not be defensive, but bold in our faith and confidence in the eternal Word of God and the Eternal God of the Word. We must also realize that conversion is by the power of the Spirit of God, not by the persuasion of argumentation: apologetics is for the believer and for those in whom the Spirit of God is at work.

A voice says, "Call out." Then he answered, "What shall I call out?" All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

Isaiah 40: 6-8 (NASB)

Knowledge results in arrogance; the goal of our instruction is love.

Discussion Questions

1.) xx

For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, ²⁵ BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

I Peter 1: 24-25 (NASB)

2.) xx

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

Matthew 24: 35

Mark 13: 31

Luke 21: 33 (NASB)

3.) xx

4.) xx

5.) xx

6.) xx

7.) How does the theme of this message, “the Word of the Lord endures forever,” relate to God’s Vision/Mission for us as a church as stated in the box below?

God’s Vision and Mission for the Alliance Bible Church

The Alliance Bible Church is a multi-cultural church celebrating the life of Christ in us by:

- Proclaiming the full message of God’s Good News to the diverse cultures of McHenry and surrounding communities,
- Discipling believers in living the deeper Christian life,
- Equipping His people for the work of ministry, and
- Demonstrating the unconditional love of Jesus to our community through meaningful acts of service.

MEMORY VERSE

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