

Sermon: Christianity and the Bible
Series: *Exploring Christianity*

Scripture: John 1,8,15
Date: August 15, 2021

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about us?

a) What is your view of the Bible? Do you believe it is God's inspired word? Why or why not?

b) What do you love the most about the Bible? What do you like the least about the Bible?

2) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) We said that the Old Testament gives us the "two words of God: Law and Gospel." How would you explain the difference between law and gospel/grace to someone?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Read John 1:1-4 and 14. Jesus is God's word in the flesh. How is Jesus both the bodily fulfillment of God's law and God's grace (v14 – "grace and truth")?

Note: think about the cross. How does the cross of Jesus uphold both the law and the gospel at the same time?

b) Read John 15:1-11. Notice how Jesus connects abiding in him (v4,5,6) to abiding in his word (v7), his love (v9), and his commandments (v10). How does this connection of the person of Jesus to his words and commandments allow us to obey Jesus by grace through faith without it becoming works righteousness?

Think about how different it would be if all we had was commands from God without the person and work of Jesus Christ.

APPLICATION

a) Does your Bible reading point your heart to Jesus? How? Or...why not?

b) Read Colossians 3:16-17. Jesus told us to abide in his word (John 8:31). Paul tells us to let the "word of Christ abide in us." What is one specific thing you might do to abide in the word of Christ? What is one specific thing you might do to let the word of Christ abide in you?

FIGHTER VERSES: Ephesians 4:1-6.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his word, especially the living word, Jesus Christ.
- Confess ways that you are failing to abide in the word or let the word abide in you.
- Ask God to help you love his word and find Jesus Christ in it as you study it.