

Big idea: The Word of God is our final authority in all things of faith and practice because it alone defines what is true, right and good.

I. Facts to know about the Book

- A. The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years; by some 40 human authors, it's 66 books in 1
- B. The word Bible means BOOK (the BIBLE never calls itself the BIBLE)
- C. 28 books of the Bible can be read in 20 minutes or less

II. A Book like no other

A. The Bible says that it is TRUE, RIGHT, and GOOD

B. The Bible alone is our FINAL authority

1. The Bible in TENSION with the culture

- How do we respond?
 - In FAITH – let the Scripture push back

 - In UNBELIEF – reject the Scripture

 - In CONCESSION – adopt a changing interpretation while trying to hold onto one's faith
- What does this look like?
 - SELECTIVELY pick verses that support a position

 - AVOID certain topics that embarrass or disturb us

➤ Biblical passages are CONFUSING/UNCLEAR we can't know for sure what they mean

2. The STANDARD of truth is God's Word...

- Because it alone was WRITTEN by God

- Because that is what JESUS taught

- Because it alone never CHANGES

- Because it alone defines REALITY

- Because it alone has the power to deliver us from SIN

III. What we take away...

“Let's not compromise the true things (Bible doctrine) to accommodate the hard things (cultural issues) and end up with the worst thing, an apostate church.”