

I. The Bible, its origin, and its uses

- A. What is the Bible?
- B. Where does the Bible come from?
- C. What is the Bible good for?
- D. The Church and the Scriptures

II. Objections to submission to Scripture

- A. "The Bible is culturally formed."
- B. "The Bible is agenda-driven."
- C. "The Bible is a set of disconnected books (and parts of books)"
- D. "I don't think any sacred book can be relied on to tell us about God. He is unknowable."
- E. Those statements are largely *right*. Job 38:1; 40:6; John 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:16; Psalm 19:1; 8:1-2; Acts 17:22; Psalm 71:15; John 21:25
- F. The Bible tells us that God is hidden, but that he has revealed himself! (John 1:18; Deuteronomy 29:29)

III. So: why hear what the Bible has to say?

- A. If you are a Christian, this is it. There is to be no competition for your heart and life. (John 5:39; 21:24; 1 Corinthians 11:23; 15:6)
- B. If you are not a Christian, take the risk of listening to the voice of Jesus in Scripture.
- C. The program for pastors (1 Timothy 4:13)

IV. "By his knowledge the Righteous One shall justify the many."

- A. This is not ultimately about you and I learning from God's word.
- B. We don't just learn *from* Jesus, we learn *with* Jesus. (Hebrews 5:8)
- C. For Jesus as for us, true knowledge led to obedience.
 - i. How do you know that you "get" the Gospel? It starts to change your heart and your life.
 - ii. Jesus is able to teach because he was taught. That may mean hardship and rejection and suffering for us; it meant death for him. (Isaiah 50:4; 53:11)
- D. The knowledge of the Jesus Christ is the focus of the Bible. That leads us not first and foremost to try and be good and obey all the rules, but to trust in the cross of Jesus Christ – in his knowledge, which meant his death, and life for us.