

DON'T MISS THE OBVIOUS!

EQ: How do we read the Bible so that we never miss the point?

Rev. Thomas Parrish

Luke 24:36-43. *As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.*

For three years these disciples lived with, listen too, saw Jesus do miracles, and heard his predictions about his life death and resurrection but still missed the point! I am forever amazed at how blind we can be when the answer is right in front of us.

WE DARE NOT DO THAT WITH THE BIBLE. The disciples missed the point about Jesus so Jesus appeared to them after his resurrection, showed them his hands, feet and side and ate broiled fish with them.

Not long ago I stumbled, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, onto the book of Jude vs 5 in the New Testament ESV translation. As you may know the writer Jude was in fact the half-brother of Jesus.

Jude 5 *Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that JESUS, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.*



- Does that mean Jesus spoke to Moses in the burning bush?
- Does that mean the ten plagues and the angel of death were sent to Egypt by Jesus?
- Does that mean it was Jesus who parted the Red Sea and gave the Ten Commandments to Moses?
- The answer is Yes, Yes, Yes!

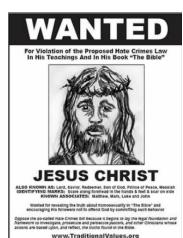
44-49 *Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."*

Today Christianity is in a battle around the world for its very life and identity. In fact, the hatred of Jesus is at an all time high.

Today, you and I have a choice as to how and why we live.

On the one hand we can marginalize Jesus by ignoring him, rejecting him, refusing him, belittling him, or creating a Jesus of our imagination. or We can, finally once and for all, come to the realization that the Bible, purpose, life and death is truly ALL ABOUT JESUS!

In fact the Bible puts this into a very blunt statement: **James 4:14. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.**



Our major problem in this life is that no matter where we stand with Jesus life has a way of UNFOCUSING Him in our decisions, values and actions.

The Message of the Bible is that it was, and is, and ever will be, about Jesus!



Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

I am forever amazed when I hear someone say, “Jesus never claimed to be God and the Bible never says he was God.” The verses I just read contradicts that statement.

Vs. 15 says that Jesus is the image of the invisible God, firstborn of all creation.

We have Christ’s own word: “*He that has seen me has seen the Father,*” John 14:9.

John’s testimony (1:14): “*We beheld his glory, glory as... of the Father*”.

Vs. 15 can be summarized this way: ***Jesus is God and He holds the ultimate position of authority over all created things.***

**16 For by him (Jesus) all things were created,
in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities—
all things were created through him and for him.**

Who created you, me, this world? JESUS!

Why were we created? We were created for Him!

The bible is emphatic: We are not here for us, we are here for Jesus!

17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

The Bible further says that this Jesus who was spoke of by Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms ***18 is the head of the body, the church.*** The Visible Church, flaws, warts and all, is still the idea of Jesus!

Permit me to share with you what I have learned in my years of Christian ministry:

***Oh the joy above with the Saints we love, Now that will be glory!
But to live below, with the Saint we know, now that's another story!***

**THE WAY WE WORK OUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS IS IN THE WAY
WE RESPOND TO ONE ANOTHER.**

So today we must not miss the obvious:

Jesus is the one and only focus, purpose, point of the Bible.

The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is all about Jesus and his incredible sacrifice for you and me!

2 Cor. 5:18-21 nails our existence, purpose and mission to the wall.

***WE ARE MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION REACHING OUT TO SINFUL LOST PEOPLE
AND INTRODUCING THEM TO THE PERSON OF JESUS.***