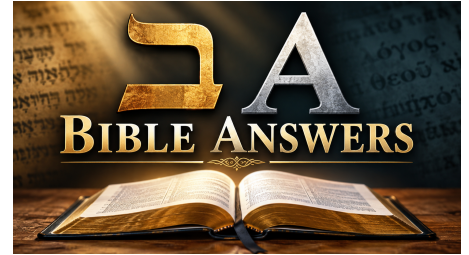


L1 Bible Answers - *The “Why” behind the “Do.”*

Introduction - I believe it is needful for us to begin a series on this topic, which is entitled “Bible Answers.”

- (1) Those who already have a great foundation in the Scriptures would take these things— and be able to explain them to others.
- (2) Those who are learning and hearing these things for the first time, would gain a good foundation of biblical truth. But then would live by biblical truth.
- (3) That we would understand the biblical basis behind what we do as Christians.



- a. What does the Bible say about God?
- b. What does the Bible say about His Word?
- c. What does the Bible say about the Trinity?
- d. Why do we gather together on Sunday and not Saturday? Or why do we assemble at all?
- e. Why do we sing, pray, and take up an offering during the church assembly?
- f. Someone asked, Why do we dress up on Sunday?

Let's take our Bibles tonight and look at the need for this kind of understanding in **Mark 12:18-27**. The Pharisees and the Herodians wanted to find a reason to **find fault with the Lord** and, further **to not believe in His claim to be the Christ, the Son of God**.

Verses 12 and 13 say this — **Mark 12:12–13** *“12 And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way. 13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.”*

But I want to key in on the words of the Lord in **verse 24**. The Bible says in **Mark 12:24**, *“24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because **ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?**”*

Now there are two failures spoken about by the Lord.

1. They knew not the _____
2. They knew not the _____ of God.

The Sadducees, by this story—which was made up—tried to prove a certain point (that there is no resurrection).

I. The _____

The Lord tells the Sadducees they had already fallen into error. And I believe one of the reasons this is recorded is so that we do not fall into error. There are several dangers here:

1. Their taught belief **conflicted** with Scripture.

We see this today all around us. Sometimes you will run into someone who has been taught certain things their whole life— and from your vantage point it is obvious it conflicts with Scripture. Consider some of the resurrection passages in the Old Testament -**1Kings 17:10-24; 2 Kings 4:16-37, 13:20-21; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; Hosea 13:14**. Now the Lord skillfully uses a passage out of Exodus— to show them.

2. Their taught belief **caused** them to ignore Scripture.

3. Their taught belief **clouded** what they could have and should have known about God.

This is a very important reason for us to have **Bible answers** for what we believe and how those beliefs determine and direct our actions. I believe the Lord points us to two very important truths we need to understand concerning **our beliefs** and the **outworking of those beliefs**: how we live in this world. And let me say that all of our beliefs and our actions must be as unto the Lord.

II. _____ Proof

This first item is easy for us to understand— and probably what we gravitate to most. For instance, is there an Old Testament passage that tells us explicitly we will marry or be married in eternity? But also keep in mind there are many things in the Word of God that God **is explicit about**. Three guardrails, I believe, will help us— to steer us in the right direction.

- A. We must know the **explicit commands and claims** in God's Word.
- B. We must know the **entire counsel** of God's Word.
- C. We must consider the **extraordinary character** of God.

III. _____ Proof

The very first question we are going to answer in this series is "Who is God?" I would submit to you that if we have a failed or shallow understanding of God, we will be more likely to misinterpret or be led astray concerning His Word. Principled proof means this—that while God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him... (**2 Peter 1:3**), God does not spell out every detail of everything. In fact, the very passage the Lord uses does not directly address the resurrection, but rather tells us of continuing life with God after death. And further, the Sadducees rationalize something that is not even said in Scripture.

Exodus 3:6 *"6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God."*

So, what has He given us? He has given us His Word that tells us about Himself. He gives us explicit commands, Bible truth, and Bible principles. He has given us the ability to reason and to think, and apply biblical principles that fit all of the situations of life.

Here is an example. We could take the truth:

We are to study, search, and take in the Scriptures (John 5:39; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15—see also Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 2:1-5; Colossians 3:16);

-the truth that the church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15); the truth that God has given to the local church spiritually gifted teachers (Romans 12:6-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28, 14:12; Ephesians 4:11);

-the truth that we are to assemble as a local church (Acts 2:42, 4:31, 11:26, 15:25-by example; Romans 12:4-8-by necessity; Hebrews 10:24-25-by command),

-the truth that we are to teach old and young alike Bible truth (Deuteronomy 6:7; Psalm 78:4, 145:4; Proverbs 22:6; Colossians 3:16; Titus 2:3-4).

When we put it all together, we realize that Bible study group time is a good thing with a biblical basis. God does not say, Thou shalt have Bible study groups.

And it is in keeping with our knowledge of God—and who He is—that drives our application of these principles. In other words, our motivation is not what is popular—or based on mob rule—but it is based on Scripture and the character of God (pursuing Christ).

Clothing Should Cover

Genesis 3:21 *“21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, **and clothed them.**”*

Later on, in **Genesis 9:22**, we read of the account of Noah being uncovered in His nakedness. When you read the passage, you understand that it was not morally right for the sons to see their father’s nakedness... In **verse 23** of that same chapter, Shem and Japheth take a garment— and — the Bible says, *“covered the nakedness of their father...”*

In **Exodus 28:42**, God makes a requirement for those who approach Him to **cover their nakedness** from their loins to their thighs before they approach Him. We could continue and trace down this principle in the Word of God and see that clothing should cover us. That is the Bible principle. And you will notice as you study this that the Lord does not state— we have to wear shirts with three buttons, but the Bible does teach us we should be covered. You will find that God emphasizes ‘modesty’ in the application of clothing (**1 Timothy 2:9-10**). In the same Timothy passage, He emphasizes a **focus on the heart** with good works. And then there is an emphasis on humility in the life of the believer (**1 Peter 5:5-6**— interestingly, Peter says we ought to be clothed with humility, **James 4:6, 10 [humility]**). In that discussion, we would also have to speak of Christian liberty— just because I can do something does not always mean I should— which is why our heart needs to be yielded to God.