



Collusion or Collision: Attacks on the Bible/Outside
From Sermon 4.25.21

Read *John 3:19-20*

Review from Sunday's sermon: From the dawn of Creation, the Word of God has been questioned, twisted, and rejected. Because God has placed eternity in the hearts of all men, man is incurable religious and must have some foundation and answers for life's questions. If he does not keep the Scriptures for that purpose, he will find something on which to base his life and meaning: science, other people, education, achievement, success, title, pleasure...When those, inevitably, turn out to be empty, he'll fix blame on God, Christ, and the Bible-believers.

1. What is the "light" Jesus was refereeing to in that John passage? The very Word of God. God has revealed Himself, His Nature, His expectation and Law throughout redemptive history in Scripture.

See also *Hebrews 1:1-3*. Jesus is the Word incarnate. Man has rejected both God and His Word because it exposes his sin and fate.

2. How and when it all began: Who was the first rebel and, then, the one to bring God's Word into question? The devil. He then gets man to join his rebellion. See *Genesis 3:1*

3. Discuss the reality of the world having little problem with churches that also reject the Scriptures and focus on self-improvement. They are just like them. This is the modern school curriculum: tolerance, inner peace, lack of absolutes, cancel culture...

4. Because the world has gotten so very far from seeing any value in the Bible, the Church has incorporated strategies for reaching the modern (post-modern) culture. List some. Drop doctrine & redefine sin. Make God only love and blessing and inclusion. Never bring up judgment or wrath. Bring in their values, language, and music. Appeal to their emotion and objections = marketing.

4a. What is the problem with this approach? The church should be in the culture, but the culture is not to be in the church. Only God can change a heart unto salvation.

See also *2 Timothy 4:2-4* & *2 Corinthians 2:15*

5. Give some examples you've witnessed of the culture attacking the Bible: Various personal answers. Include: talk/news shows. Hollywood—DaVinci Code, Noah, movies with angels, comedians, sitcoms, books, history "documentaries", school science class.

6. Review the simultaneous rise of the cults once the Age of Reason reached America. By the mid-1800's, a questioned Bible opened the door for corrected, improved, and expanded scripture. Enter J. Smith, C.T. Russell, M.B. Eddy, E.G. White, and many others. They viewed Scripture corrupted and incomplete. By the early 1900's, enter the Charismatics = God speaking new revelation. See also *1 Timothy 4:1-3*

7. On Sunday, what was mentioned as the ultimate/final consequence of removing Word and silencing Word-preaching churches? God will abandon them to their dark choice. They will not find truth in any sphere. All restraints on sin will be gone = the depravity found in the book of Revelation.