



Christian Basics Class

Week 1 - The Bible and Law/Gospel

The Bible - An Overview

Old Testament

- Written in Hebrew and Aramaic
- 39 Books
 - Genesis-Deuteronomy (Pentateuch)
 - Joshua-Esther (History)
 - Job-Song of Songs (Poetry and Writings)
 - Isaiah-Malachi (Prophets)

New Testament

- Written in Greek
- 27 Books
 - Matthew-Acts (Gospels/Acts)
 - Romans-Philemon (Paul's Letters)
 - Hebrews-Jude (General Letters)
 - Revelation (Apocalyptic)

The Bible is Christocentric, which means it exists to reveal God's truth about Jesus Christ

- The Old Testament promises the coming Savior
- The New Testament tells of the Savior who has come
 - Hebrews 1:1-2
 - Luke 24:27
 - John 20:31

The Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God

- Inspired = The Holy Spirit gave His chosen writers the thoughts they expressed and the words they wrote
- Inerrant = God's own Word and truth without error
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - Isaiah 40:8

Human reason is a servant to God's Word, not the other way around

- Psalm 119:73
- Colossians 2:8
- 2 Peter 3:15-16



Law and Gospel

God's Word can be divided into either Law or Gospel

- The Law commands good works of thought, word, and actions and condemns and punishes sin
- The Gospel tells us the good news of our salvation in Jesus Christ

The Law (What is demanded of us)

- Must be kept perfectly
- Does not save us, rather it condemns us
 - Mark 12:30-31
 - Romans 3:19-20
- Functions to control violent outbursts of sin and keeps order in the world (Curb)
 - 1 Timothy 1:8-11
- Functions to accuse us and show us our sin (Mirror)
 - Romans 7:7
- Functions to teach us what we should and should not do to lead a God-pleasing life (Guide)
 - Psalm 119:105-106

The Gospel (What God has done for us)

- Entirely God's work - the good news of salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that produces forgiveness, faith, and life
 - John 3:16
 - Romans 1:16
 - Ephesians 2:1-9
 - Romans 3:21-24