

Why Should I Base My Life on the Bible?  
Matthew 4:1-11

Why We Would Want To Base Our Lives Upon The Bible?

When we base our lives upon the Bible, it frees us for flourishing.

I don't know if America has a leadership problem; it certainly has a followership problem. Vast majorities of Americans don't trust their institutions. That's not mostly because our institutions perform much worse than they did in 1925 and 1955, when they were widely trusted. It's mostly because more people are cynical and like to pretend that they are better than everything else around them. Vanity has more to do with rising distrust than anything else.

—David Brooks, NY Times

Basing our Lives in the Bible brings Fullness of Life

Not controlled by his appetites (or desires) (v.3)

Not controlled by insecurity (v.5-6)

Not controlled by achievement (v.8-9)

Sin is where I'm willing to trade God's path for my prerogative.

The Gospels portray a compelling and attractive person, who engages seriously with people and is good company at a party. Yet all the evidence is that he lived as a sexual celibate.

—Walter Moberly

It may come as a surprise in our age of personal gravitation that Jesus never married and never had sex—with a woman or with a man. He never gave in to any lust. Although he experienced every human temptation (Heb 4:15), he never sinned sexually. And yet he was the truest, fullest human being who has ever lived. Indeed, precisely because he never sinned, he was truly, fully human. From the Bible's perspective, sin mars, and stains humanity. But Jesus never felt that stain. Does this mean that everyone who wants to share the true humanity of Jesus must be single or celibate? No. It does, however shift the terms of our modern thinking about sexuality. It dislodges our assumption that having sex is necessary to be truly, fully alive...Imitating Jesus; conforming my thoughts, beliefs, desires, and hopes to his; sharing his life; embracing his [word] I become more fully alive, not less.

—Wesley Hill, *Washed and Waiting*

## Why We Need To Base Our Lives on the Bible

Sufficiency of scripture (v.4)

But He answered, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”



Unity of scripture (v.7)

Jesus told him, “It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.”

Authority of Scripture (v.10)

Then Jesus told him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.”

Jesus viewed scripture as...

- a) supernatural revelation (John 5:37-39; Matthew 19:4-5)
- b) scripture as inspired in every single part (John 10:34-35; Matthew 5:17,19)
- c) authoritative and “unbreakable” (John 10:35; Mark 7:1-13)
- d) sufficient for salvation (Luke 16:15-31; John 5:39-40)
- e) Something to base even the smallest details of his life on (John 19:28)

## Hebrews 1:1-2

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...

## Hebrews 4:12-13

God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one is impervious to God's Word. We can't get away from it—no matter what.

Jesus based all he did and every part of his life and career on the Scripture:

a) He faced every major crisis in his life by apprehending and quoting the Scripture: his temptation (Matthew 4); his betrayal (Matt.26:52- 54); and his death on the cross.

b) This shows that his deepest reflexes were to believe and rely on the Bible.

c) If this is true, then it shows us at least one reason we need to base our lives on scripture

HOW WE BASE OUR LIVES ON THE BIBLE W/OUT HURTING  
OURSELVES OR OTHERS

## Matthew 4:5-7

Then the Devil took Him to the holy city, had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written... He will give His angels orders concerning you, and they will support you with their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

A Framework/Lens To Look Through

What is Meaning of text/ original author

(v.7) Jesus told him, “It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.”



The authors speak the truth in all things they affirm (when they make affirmations), and will eventually be seen to have spoken truly (when readers read rightly).

—Kevin Vanhoozer

If in these writings I am perplexed by anything which appears to me opposed to truth, I do not hesitate to suppose that either the manuscript is faulty, or the translator has not caught the meaning of what was said, or I myself have failed to understand.”

—Augustine

How does it fit w/ The Nature & Mission of God?

How does it point to Messiah?

In the end, there are only two ways to read the Bible; is it basically about me or basically about Jesus?

John 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! 40 Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.