

HALF TRUTHS

MESSAGE #6: “God said it, I believe it, that settles it”

A half-truth can be dangerous because it has enough truth to make it sound believable and enough error to mess up your life if you really buy into it. Today we look at the statement, “God said it, I believe it, that settles it.” We see have likely heard this statements before or seen it somewhere like on a bumper stick or a billboard. People say this for many reasons:

- They may be asserting their belief in the Bible.
- Some way it to declare their complete trust in God.
- Maybe they believe that it’s the “right” way, or the “expected” way to approach scripture.
- Or perhaps they are uncomfortable with whatever is being talked about, so they fall back on this statement as as defensive, “God said it, I believe it, that settles it.”

As true as the phrase “God said it, I believe it, that settles it,” might sound to us, the reality is when it comes to speaking about the Bible, it doesn’t capture the whole truth about the nature of God’s word, how we read it, and how we apply it to our lives. Today, let’s keep an open conversation and unpack this perhaps cliché statement as we examine these words together.

ICEBREAKER

What are some of your Favourite bumper stickers you’ve seen?

DIG DEEPER

1. Perhaps you’ve seen this bumper sticker or heard someone say this statement before, “God said it, I believe it, that settles it.” What do you think this Bumper sticker is trying to convey? Would you put this bumper sticker on your car? Why or why not?

2. What possible implications do you see with this statement?

3. Read **2 Timothy 3:16**. What comes to mind when you hear the word “Inspired?” When you talk about God’s word, how was it inspired? How did God inspire the words of those who wrote scripture? Was it the same for everyone?

How do you respond to the idea that the Biblical writers were inspired differed from writer to writer?

4. When reading God's word, what factors come into play that might influence how we translate a scripture? What questions should we need to ask when reading from the Bible?

5. What are some different ways people sometimes read the Bible? What is your understanding of the Bible? Do you read it as literal, as allegory, as fiction, as something else?

6. Some people live out faith as a set of clearly laid out rules. Do you see it this way? Did Jesus' describe faith this way? When talking about scripture with others, how can we approach them as Jesus did?

7. What tools are available to us to help figure out how to understand scripture and what God calls us to do?

TAKE IT HOME

The Bible is ultimately a testimony of its authors to their faith in and experience with God and His will as He inspired them. It's our defining story. Through the scripture we can hear God speak. As a result, reading the Bible becomes a means of Grace. As we read our Bible we need to take time to experience God's word, much like its authors did in their lives. This is the best way we can see God at work and begin to understand God's will for us.