

Does The Bible Contradict Itself?

Concerning a particular issue being addressed in a recent newspaper article, a preacher was credited with saying that he “sees Bible verses which come down on either side of the issue.” By implication, this means that the Bible is indecisive, contradictory, and thus, unreliable in aiding one to reach a conclusion. Does the Bible contradict itself? This would certainly seem to be out of keeping with statements such as, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16a) and “. . .in which it is impossible for God to lie” (Hebrews 6:18). A contradictory statement, by its nature, cannot be truthful. Given that the Bible has successfully weathered and withstood centuries old attacks against its credibility, and that all purported contradictions have been reasonably explained time and again, is it not more likely that faulty interpretation is the culprit when a supposed contradiction is perceived?

Paul made a bold claim: “If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write to you are the commandments of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 14:37).” Peter affirmed that “. . .we did not follow cunningly devised fables. . .” and “. . .knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:16a; 20-21). The Bible provides mankind with a sure and certain guide, consistent, reliable, and true. It instructs in “. . .the faith which was once for all delivered the Saints” (Jude 3b). If anyone is guilty of “coming down on either side of the issue,” it is man, perhaps moved by a desire to please all and offend none. Let these words challenge us all: “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10).

Randall F. Matheny
PO Box 911, Warren, PA 16365