

Biblical Integrity

2 Corinthians 4: 2 “nor do we distort the word of God”; Hebrews 4:12 “the word of God is living and active..; 2 Peter 3: 16 “ignorant and unstable people distort”; Revelation 22: 18-19 “if anyone takes words away from this book...”

As Christians, we need to accept the Bible as a whole, and feed off of it, not pick and choose the bits we are most comfortable with. If we start editing the Bible, we’re going to end up distancing ourselves from God and making up our own “religion”.

Student loitering near a desk; tutor walks in the room and greets him/her. Tutor lays his/her Bible out on the desk/table, student flips through his/her Bible on his/her lap, so tutor and people watching the drama can’t properly see it.

Tutor: Hi, I’m Molly (*or Michael*), I’m your tutor for this one-to-one Bible study. Please, take a seat. I like to start by asking new-comers why you’ve decided to come along and what you hope to get out of this time...

Student: Right, yes. I became a Christian ten years ago and I’ve been attending my church faithfully since then, but I don’t feel I’ve really moved on enough in my relationship with God. In fact, sometimes I feel further away than ever, and I’m just re-evaluating where I’m at, and I thought it might be helpful to take a closer look at the Bible. Some people seem to really get a lot out of it.

Tutor: Ok, yes, that makes sense. Shall we make a start by looking at Genesis...

Student: I’m sorry, I haven’t got Genesis

Tutor: Haven’t you? Where did it go?

Student: Well, I was taught at my church that our understanding of the Big Bang and evolution had done away with the need for such an artistic description of the beginning of the world, so I took it out.

Tutor: You took it out?

Student: Yes. You see, I want my Bible to be something I can completely believe in.

Tutor: Oh...um...that’s a very unusual approach to Biblical integrity, we’ll come back to that. Maybe we could take a look at Exodus..

Student: Oh, no, I haven’t got Exodus...

Tutor: You haven't got Exodus?

Student: No, I took it out when I was taught about the plague stories being pictorial and that thing about the Red Sea...

Tutor: The thing about the Red Sea??

Student: Yes, the story about the Red Sea parting and the Israelites walking across; we were taught that it's just embarrassing that some Christians still believe in a literal interpretation

Tutor: I'm lost for words...how about Leviticus?

Student: We don't bother with all those laws any more, so there's no need for it, nor for Numbers or Deuteronomy

Tutor: Joshua?

Student: Walls don't fall down just by blowing trumpets...

Tutor: Judges?

Student: Our pastor doesn't believe that you lose your strength when your hair is cut off...

Tutor: Ruth?

Student: It's a bit of an odd ball that one, but it seems harmless enough, so it can stay

Tutor: Ah! So maybe off the back of Ruth we could talk about the love our redeemer has for us...

Student: You mean Jesus?

Tutor: Yes!... You don't have a problem with Jesus do you?

Student: Well, it doesn't make sense that God should become a man and then need to die on a cross to do away with our sins. Our pastor says it's picture language, not a literal description of what happened.

Tutor: Dare I ask....what do you think about the virgin birth as described in the gospels?

Student: Everybody knows a virgin birth is just not possible...

Tutor: How about the miracles and healings Jesus did?

Student: It's uneducated talk for being an unusually good problem solver and doctor

Tutor: What about the resurrection?

Student: Dead men don't come back to life...our pastor didn't like the way any of that was put, so I took the gospels out...

Tutor: Do you know the Bible says: "If Christ has not been raised your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (*1Cor15:17*)?

Student: Does it? I don't think I've got that page...

Tutor: What pages have you got?

Student holds up Bible with a very pages left in it

Tutor: That's all you've been left with?

Student: Yes. This is my Bible, I read it every day. I don't know why God seems so far away...

This drama is based on a story that someone heard somewhere... but none of us can remember who or where...I think in the original story it was a vicar at the bedside of someone who was dying, and they had torn pages out of their Bible every time their vicar/pastor had told them it wasn't literal...if this sounds familiar, and you know where/who it's from, please email me at rpcbournemouth@gmail.com so I can properly acknowledge the original source. Thanks.

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