

James 1:18–21  
*How Should we Answer those who Scoff at the Bible?*  
October 30, 2011  
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

A. Why We Need Stress & Burdens

**2 Corinthians 1:8–11**

<sup>8</sup> For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so *utterly burdened beyond our strength* that we *despaired of life itself*. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. **But** that was to make us *rely* not on ourselves but *on God* who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup> He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. <sup>11</sup> **You also must help us by prayer**, so that many will *give thanks* on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

“Where is our delight in praying? Where is our sense that we are meeting with the living God, that we are doing business with God, that we are interceding with genuine unction before the throne of grace? ...

Can we profitably meet the other challenges that confront the Western church if prayer is ignored as much as it has been?” <sup>1</sup>

B. Meekness before God’s Word (Matthew 5:5)

**Key Idea**

*Prayerfully we make our stand boldly and kindly under the authority of God’s Word!*

II. The Nature of All Assaults on God’s Word

A. The Source of the Assault (The assertion of plausible lies; Genesis 3:1-5)

---

<sup>1</sup> D. A. Carson. Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers (p. 17). Kindle Edition.

### Genesis 3:4-5

“You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> *For God knows ... you will be like God...*”

- B. Our sinful/foolish tendency to trust our own opinion

### Genesis 3:6 (Cf. Genesis 2:15–17)

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food...

### 1 Timothy 2:14

...<sup>14</sup> and Adam *was not deceived*, but the woman *was deceived* and became a transgressor.

### Proverbs 12:15

<sup>15</sup> The way of a fool is *right in his own eyes*...

### Proverbs 30:5–6

<sup>5</sup> Every word of God proves true... <sup>6</sup> Do not add to *his words*, lest he rebuke you and *you be found a liar*.

2. Our sinful/foolish tendency to trust the opinion of others

### John 5:41, 44

<sup>41</sup> [Jesus said] *I do not receive glory from people*. ...

<sup>44</sup> How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and **do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?**

*Playing the Numbers Game: A Critique of Attempts to Rationalize the Population Numbers of Exodus* by Brett Palmer

“I want to take a look at the estimated percentage for population growth as it applied to the ancient Egyptians. ... When I questioned Dr. Spencer of the British Museum in a follow-up e-mail, he declined to give me an estimated growth rate but commented instead, “*the growth rate was significantly lower than modern Egypt, due to the high mortality rate (seemingly experienced in most ancient societies).*” I also queried Dr. Roger Bagnall, Professor of Classics and History at Columbia University and co-author of *The Demography of Roman Egypt* (Cambridge, 1994), and he responded, “*There is no evidence whatsoever for the ancient growth rate of any population. Frier and I used a low one (0.2% a year) in Demography of Roman Egypt, but that*

was for modeling purposes, not because we know. We know even less about NK [New Kingdom] Egypt...”

However, according to **one source**, the population growth rate for ancient Egypt **may have been around 0.1%**. Using this figure...”<sup>2</sup>

### C. The Case for Inerrancy/Inspiration

#### 1. The Character of the Bible’s Message

#### 2. God’s Appointed Messengers (Miracles)

“We have given a case for the inerrancy of the Bible. Unless this case can be shown to be false, then it carries with it the guarantee that there are no discrepancies. We have, in other words, if our case is sound, shown that **discrepancies are only apparent** and **must be reconcilable**, even if we say not one word about how this reconciliation is to be shown. It behooves the opponent to prove us wrong by showing his “discrepancies” to be discrepancies **incapable of harmonization.**” (bold mine)<sup>8</sup>

## III. Two Types of Assaults on the Bible

### A. Historical Problems

#### Acts 5:34–37

- (Luke: **Gamaliel**... **Theudas**... then **Judas** the Galilean)

#### Josephus

- Writing about **95AD**<sup>3</sup>
- Judas **6AD** then Theudas **44AD**

Resolution: **Gamaliel** was giving this speech about **30AD**

### B. Faith & Obedience Problems

#### 1 Corinthians 10:13

<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and ***he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability***, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

#### James 1:2–5

<sup>2</sup> **Count it all joy**, my brothers, when you meet ***trials*** of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of

---

<sup>2</sup> © 2005 <<http://www.thebibleskeptic.com/exodus.html#s6>>

<sup>3</sup> Antiquities 18; from a lecture given by Wayne Grudem

your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, *that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask God**, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

#### IV. How Should we Answer those who Scoff at the Bible?

- A. Understand where you Stand
  - 1. The Opinion of Men
  - 2. The Word of God: Receive the Implanted Word with Unashamed Meekness

##### **James 1:18–21**

<sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by **the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. <sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

- B. A Bold Kindness

##### **1 Peter 3:14–16**

<sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but in your hearts **honor Christ the Lord as holy**, always *being prepared to make a defense* to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet *do it with gentleness and respect*, <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.