



Week Two: What is the Bible

[John 5:16-17, 24-25, 37-40](#)

Point 1: The Bible is a Library

1. **Understanding Genre:** Why is it important to recognize that the Bible is a collection of writings (a library) rather than a single book? How does recognizing different genres within the Bible affect our interpretation and application of its contents? (See examples like [Isaiah 55:12](#) and [1 Thessalonians 4:17](#))
2. **Literal vs. Literary Interpretation:** Reflect on the importance of reading the Bible according to its literary genres. Give examples from the sermon where literal vs. literary interpretation impacts our understanding of specific passages. (Refer to [Isaiah 55:12](#) and [1 Thessalonians 4:17](#))

Point 2: Both Divine and Human

1. **Divine Inspiration:** What does it mean for the Bible to be both divine and human? How does [2 Peter 1:21](#) emphasize the role of God's Spirit in the process of biblical authorship?
2. **Human Authors:** Discuss the significance of God collaborating with human authors while preserving their unique personalities, backgrounds, and writing styles. How does this understanding impact our view of Scripture? (Refer to examples like Paul's writing style in 1 Corinthians as discussed in the sermon)

Point 3: A Unified Story

1. **Narrative Arc:** Explore the concept of the Bible as a unified narrative with a central storyline. How does recognizing the overarching story of Scripture help address apparent contradictions or changing laws within the text?

2. **Role of Jesus:** How does the entire narrative of the Bible point to Jesus Christ? Identify examples or themes from the Old Testament that foreshadow or anticipate Jesus' coming and his role in God's plan.

Point 4: Which Leads Us to Jesus

1. **The Word of God:** Reflect on [John 1:1](#) and [Hebrews 4:12](#) in light of the sermon's emphasis on Jesus as the true Word of God. How does understanding Jesus as the focal point of Scripture guard against "bibliolatry"?
2. **Personal Application:** How can we ensure that our study of the Bible leads us closer to Jesus and not merely to academic or intellectual knowledge? Discuss practical ways to deepen our relationship with Christ through Scripture. (Consider Jesus' own words in [John 5:39](#) and their application to our study of Scripture)
Personal Response: How has this sermon challenged or expanded your understanding of the Bible? What specific changes or adjustments might you make in your approach to reading and studying Scripture? (Reflect on personal insights and scriptural references from the sermon)