



ASKING FOR A FRIEND

Tough Questions, Honest Answers

The NIV version of the Bible is used for all questions.

1. What do you believe about the Bible? Is it God's Word, or is it just the writings of men? How do you know? If a book were written by an all-powerful, all-knowing God, what would be the characteristics of that book?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:16,17, 2 Peter 1:20,21, and Hebrews 4:12. What do these verses claim about God's Word? How is the Bible different from any other book?
3. Pastor Rick gave four realities about the Bible that show why we trust it, what were they? Which one of these carries the most weight with you? Why?
4. What is mercy? What is justice? How is God able to be merciful to us and let us as sinners into heaven, and at the same time maintain his justice?
5. In view of the fact that the Bible is God's Word, what three actions did Pastor Rick say we need to take? Which one are you best at doing and which one needs to improve? How can we help each other to do these things better?

ANSWERS

1. *The characteristics of a book written by God an all powerful, all knowing God would be that it would have to be 100% accurate in everything it said. If it made prophecies, they would have to come true %100 of the time; if it made any statement that could be checked scientifically, it would need to be 100% accurate; if it made any statement about something that happened in the past, it would have to be 100% accurate; it would never contradict itself in anything it said.*
2. *Each of these verses make the claim that the scriptures were authored by God.. Since the Bible's claim for itself is that it was written by God, its words are unlike any other writings because its words are always true, living, and have power to change people's lives*
3. *The four realities are to trust the Bible because: a. History confirms it; b. Prophecies prove it; c. Humanity perfectly preserved it; and d. Live are changed by it.*
4. *Mercy is not getting what you deserve, justice is to get what you deserve. God could not allow sinful people into heaven, his justice demands that the penalty for sin, death, be paid. He can be merciful to us and let us into heaven even though we are sinful because he came himself and died to pay the price for sin, which satisfied his just demand for a payment for sin. Since his justice was satisfied by the death of Christ, he can mercifully extend salvation to anyone who will accept it.*
5. *In view of the fact that the Bible is God's Word, what three actions did Pastor Rick say we need to take? Which one are you best at doing and which one needs to improve? How can we help each other to do these things better? Pastor Rick said that since the Bible is God's Word, and is the most important knowledge anyone can possess, then we should: a. Study it passionately, b. Apply it faithfully; and c. Share it unapologetically.*