

January 24, 2021

# Scott's Thoughts



*"For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn*

*away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."* (2 Timothy 4:3–4, ESV)

"What do you believe Scott?" This question is asked from time to time and it is always one that requires thought. The answer given will take time and have to be formulated. If someone is asking my opinion as to whether this car or that car would be a better buy, it would require me to examine both vehicles or at least see some pictures or maybe get a CarFax report on each one. In other words, to get a meaningful opinion on either vehicle would require time and thought. I understand there are some things that take very little thought because over time I have developed my opinions.

An example of this is Okra. I know there are many people who just love okra. In fact, my wife and all three of my daughters enjoy okra. I do not! Now I did not come to that conclusion quickly. For years, every time someone would say, "You just haven't had it fixed right," I would try their recipe. Well, my opinion has been formed by eating okra fixed dozens of different ways, none of which I liked. So, when someone asks me what do I believe about Okra? I just say it's nasty!

If only all questions could be answered in

such a simple and definite way. Sometimes we ask questions because we have to live with the decision for a long time. If we care about each other, answering those questions certainly takes a little more time.

"Do you believe the Bible?" is one of those questions. It is not a simple question. Do you believe it is the word of God or not? There are more than just "Yes" and "No" answers. Let me explain what I mean. There are two basic answers. One will say, "Yes" and another "No." Then there are some who try to qualify their answer by saying, "I'm not sure. I'm still thinking about it." Another will might say, "Yes, but not all of it." The first response, if it is an honest answer, is good because they are open to knowing more. The second response is more problematic because the Bible itself says it is the Word of God. If the Bible is the word of God, then all of it must be true.

The truth of the Bible is only the beginning of questions people have about this book. So, when I am asked a question about what the Bible says, my answer is simple. "Let's look and see, when can we sit down and study together?" Often, they will answer with, "Oh just tell me." Here is the problem with that. Eternity might just depend on the answer. Shouldn't the answer be exactly what scripture says rather than my opinion?

*"Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good."* (1 Thessalonians 5:20–21, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott