

Pick & Choose

by Bill Crews

Atheists deny the existence of God and reject the divine origin of the Bible. To them the Bible is a monstrous fraud. Written over a span of time by unknown and deceptive men, filled with myths and legends, claiming to come from a divine and supernatural being, and to contain authoritative laws and commandments. To them it is to be rejected and dismissed. To them it is without value. In an attempt to prove their points **they pick and choose** what they will from the Bible, deciding the meaning for themselves, ignoring contexts, distorting purposes and words in their attempts to prove that the book is filled with numerous hopeless discrepancies and obvious contradictions. Their distortions, perversions and prejudices have all been answered long ago, but they continue to repeat them as if they have never been answered and are unanswerable.

And then there are the sincere and well-meaning religious people who believe the Bible came from God and is therefore “the word of God,” “the revelation of God and His will to man.” But at the same time, they have been convinced that the Bible cannot be understood alike in many points (of course this is a serious reflection upon God: having all power and all wisdom and surely wanting men to understand His revealed word, He nonetheless gave man a book that is so worded that men cannot understand it alike), and that this is in fact the reason for all of the division we have among those who profess to believe the Bible and to be Christians (is God, then, to blame for the division?). Since, to them, the differences are not that serious and are matters of interpretation, then one sincere interpretation is as good as another. So **they pick and choose** the verses they will accept, that seem to teach the things they believe, and just ignore others.

And then there are the preachers, the theologians, the seminary professors, the churches, “the Bible authorities” (recognized as such by a biased media) who profess to believe in the existence of God, the goodness of Jesus, and the greatness of the Bible. But, they cannot accept the claims of the Bible as to its inspiration and infallibility, nor can they accept any of the miracles recorded therein. They believe, they say, that God created the universe, not as the Bible relates, but by the slow and unbelievable process of general evolution. To them the Bible is simply the records left by ancient peoples in their search for God. The things they put down were done in all honesty but are not to be taken at face value. Jesus was indeed a good, even a great, man, but just a man, not deity in the flesh. He taught the greatest principles and founded the greatest religion of all time, but His over-zealous and well-intentioned followers got carried away. They attributed deity to Him and fulfillment of prophecies. They added to and embellished His teaching in the records they wrote. They attributed to Him claims to deity, and miracles. They made his crucifixion a sacrifice for our sins. They added the story of the resurrection. Paul gave the religion of Jesus his own personal touch. They think that the Bible must be put to the test by their rules of understanding and interpretation. Go to the Old Testament, rule out the exaggerations and search for helpful and good principles. Go to the New Testament and search for the true teachings of Jesus, but weed out the embellishments of his sincere, but deluded disciples. In doing so, **they pick and choose** what they want and can accept and reject what they don’t want and cannot accept. They are infidels, who are like wolves in sheep’s clothing. I can have more respect for atheists than for them.

One example of the last class mentioned above is found in the actions of those self-appointed “Bible authorities and scholars” who established a series of “Jesus Seminars” in which they meet only with men of like mind to go through all of the words attributed to Jesus in the New Testament for the purpose of deciding and telling the rest of us the ones — very few, at that — that Jesus (the “real Jesus,” of course) actually said. These arrogant men end up accepting what they like and rejecting what they don’t like. They will fall under the curse of Revelation 22:18-19. Be wary of those who thus **pick and choose**.

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