

Core Class | Year 3
"God Revealed"

Jesus and (in?) the Bible

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 affirms that the Bible "is God's revelation of himself to man and that all Scripture is a *testimony to Christ*, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation."

The Uniqueness of the Christian Claim of Christ as Revelation of God: John 14:6
"I am the way, the truth, and the life." - Is Jesus referring to the essence of himself, or his literal self? What is the Truth? The idea of Jesus or the real-life, flesh and blood Jesus?

We do not believe that the Truth is found above or beyond history, but within it. God *stooped* into History to make the Ultimate Truth of reality - Himself - known.

The Bible as *and* about Revelation of God

Scriptural voices as Spirit-inspired *witnesses of God* revealing Himself in history (The Exodus, Jesus' miracles, pentecost, etc.).

The voice of Scripture as Spirit-illuminated *Word of God*: The Bible, when read in faith, by the illumination of the Spirit of God is God's self-disclosure.

Conclusions:

1. God's Heart: The incarnation reveals God's deep desire to be as close as possible to humanity; it reveals that the *imago dei* carries great weight, and that intimacy with humanity was always God's goal.
2. The Bible: "The incarnation as the center of revelation" means that all God's self-disclosure is *completed* in Christ. It doesn't mean we can slap "Jesus" onto an OT passage and call it a day.
3. The Bible and Prayer: Characters in Scripture who receive God's self-disclosure exist in the same world as we do, within the same kind of space and time. God can and will *speak to us*, if we listen.
4. The Bible and Discipleship: History is God's Drama, the Bible is a script for the Church; God is director and main actor.
5. God's Heart, the Bible, and Discipleship: The fact that we have agency and freedom in God's drama is cause for rejoicing *and* trembling. The incarnation (humanity in nearness to God), the story and teachings of Jesus (the Truth about humanity and obedience to God), as well as other faithful actors in the Script (Point 3) offer the *shape of our role* within God's Drama. Entering into that role is a realization of our God-given freedom, as well as submission to the Director.