

## Session 8: *The Bible and Controversy*

### **Matthew 5:33-35**

*“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.*

1. Jesus makes a distinction between what he said and what people \_\_\_\_\_ . Just because we heard it in church, doesn’t mean it was said by God.
2. An example of this is when people say money is the root of all evil. That’s what people heard. However, the Bible says the \_\_\_\_\_ of money is the root of all evil. This is what God said.

### **John 6:60-67**

*On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.*

*Even when you’re sincere you, can be sincerely wrong.*

**-Dharius Daniels**

## **3 Areas of Controversy: “Descriptive not Prescriptive”**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and the Bible  
There are instances of violence in the Bible. This is not to condone violence, but to show us how God will help us to win our own spiritual battles.

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### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ and the Bible

God did not curse anyone, Noah did and Noah cursed Canaan not Ham. This is what Noah did in anger. That kind of slavery was an indentured servitude at that time. It was not the same as slavery today.

#### **Genesis 9:24-25**

*When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."*

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ and the Bible

Polygamy: People did what culture was doing, not what God commanded. What God commanded was the same in the Old Testament as the New Testament.

## Discussion Questions:

1. *After listening to session 8, in your opinion, how important is reading scriptures for yourself rather than depending on other's interpretation of scripture?*
2. *In what ways does this session help you to read and interpret scripture more responsibly?*
3. *How might you describe this idea of "descriptive not prescriptive" to someone who may be reading the Bible for the first time?*
4. *Which of the three areas of controversy were most helpful to learn about as you move through your study of the Bible and why?*