

# OUR GOD SPEAKS

Part 5

BATTLES for the Bible

Acts 15

**Battle #1** – The battle for its AUTHORITY 1500s-1600s

Question: Who has more authority over the lives of Christians, the CHURCH or the BIBLE?

Answer: SOLA SCRIPTURA

Debate: Church TRADITIONS trump truth; Faith PRACTICES trump clear teachings of the Bible.

Result: Now we have CATHOLIC churches and PROTESTANT churches

**Battle #2** – The battle for the SUPERNATURAL 1800s-1900s

Question: Did the supernatural stories in the Bible LITERALLY happen?

Answer: A supernatural GOD exists and He performs supernatural ACTS.

Debate: Natural Laws of SCIENCE cannot be violated by supernatural acts.

Result: Now we have a Christianity that INCLUDES supernaturalism and a Christianity that EXCLUDES supernaturalism.

**Battle #3** – The battle for the IDENTITY of Jesus 1900s - Albert Switzer

Question: Who is the 'real' Jesus of the Bible?

Answer: The Son of GOD and Son of MAN, unique in identity and purpose

Debate: Don't take the words of the Bible at FACE VALUE, but look behind the words and in between the lines to discover the real, hidden Jesus.

Result: Some hold to a BIBLICAL Jesus, others to a CULTURAL Jesus  
Jesus is the singular way to the Father and His claims are inherently superior because He is inherently unique; both HUMAN and DIVINE.

**Battle #4** – The battle for its INERRANCY 1960s to present day

Question: Can we trust the HISTORICAL understanding of Bible doctrines?

Answer: The FUNDAMENTALS have never changed

Debate: Every creed in the Bible cannot be RELIABLE and we can decide which ones should and should not be trusted.

Result: We now have FUNDAMENTALISTS and MODERNISTS

## Life Group Questions – July 28, 2019

**2 Timothy 1:14** 'Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.'

### QUICK REVIEW

1. Why are the words we use important?
2. Can you remember a time when you thought your communication was clear, but it was really misunderstood?

### MY STORY

1. Have you ever had to push back against a wrong or bad idea at work or with friends? What was the reaction you received?
2. Why is it helpful to know something about church history?
3. What do you know about the Protestant Reformation?

### GOING DEEP

1. Read Psalm 19:7-11. What does this passage show us about the value of the Bible?
2. Do you know someone who views the Bible differently than you? How do they view it? What impact does that have on their spiritual life?
3. Read and discuss 1 Peter 4:12-17. How does our culture currently view the Bible and Jesus? Has this impacted you in some way?
4. What would you say to someone who claims Christians take the Bible too seriously?
5. Not every theological debate is worth fighting. Which doctrines are worth 'battling' for?

### PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?