

Week 3: Responding to Common Questions or Challenges to the Bible Speaker: James Greever

I. Be Ready to Give an Answer.

- Be ready to give an answer with meekness and fear. (1 Peter 3:15)
- We must study and learn to “rightly divide the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Discuss: What Bible question have you been asked that you found difficult to answer?

II. Responding to Common Challenges to the Bible

- Challenge 1: “Why should I believe the Bible?” (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21)
- THE 3 Cs: Context, Cross-Reference, and Christ
- Challenge 2: “Hasn’t the Bible been changed over the years?” (Matthew 24:35; Psalm 119:89)
- Bible statistics:
 - 66 books — 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament
 - Approximately 35–40 human writers traditionally credited
 - Written across roughly 1,500–1,600 years
 - Three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek
 - Composed across Asia, Africa, and Europe
 - Writers came from many different backgrounds.
- Challenge 3: “Doesn’t the Bible contradict itself?”
 - Before answering, ask: “Which passages are you referring to? Who is speaking? Who is being addressed? What happened before and afterward? What kind of writing is this? Are the passages describing the same event from different perspectives?”
 - Apostolic Example: Matthew 28:19 and Acts 2:38 do not contradict one another. Acts 2:38 reveals the fulfillment of the command in the NAME — Jesus Christ.
 - Supporting Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:16
- Challenge 4: “Why should I obey the Bible when culture has changed?” (Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 4:3–4)
 - Culture does _____, but God’s truth does _____.
 - We should distinguish biblical principles from cultural customs, but we must not reinterpret Scripture simply because its teaching becomes unpopular.
 - Our responsibility is to bring our lives into agreement with _____.
- Challenge 5: “Does doctrine really matter as long as I believe in Jesus?” (1 Timothy 4:16; Acts 2:42; Acts 2:37–38)
 - The first church continued steadfastly in the Apostles’ _____.

III. Sharing Biblical Truth with Grace and Confidence

- Jesus was “full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)
- Truth without grace can become _____. Grace without truth can become _____.
 - Listen before answering. (James 1:19; Matthew 10:16) Ask: “What makes you ask that?” Biblical understanding should make us wiser—not colder.
 - Don’t confuse confidence with aggression. (2 Timothy 2:24–25) The servant of the Lord should be gentle, apt to teach, patient, and instruct in meekness.

Week 3: Responding to Common Questions or Challenges to the Bible

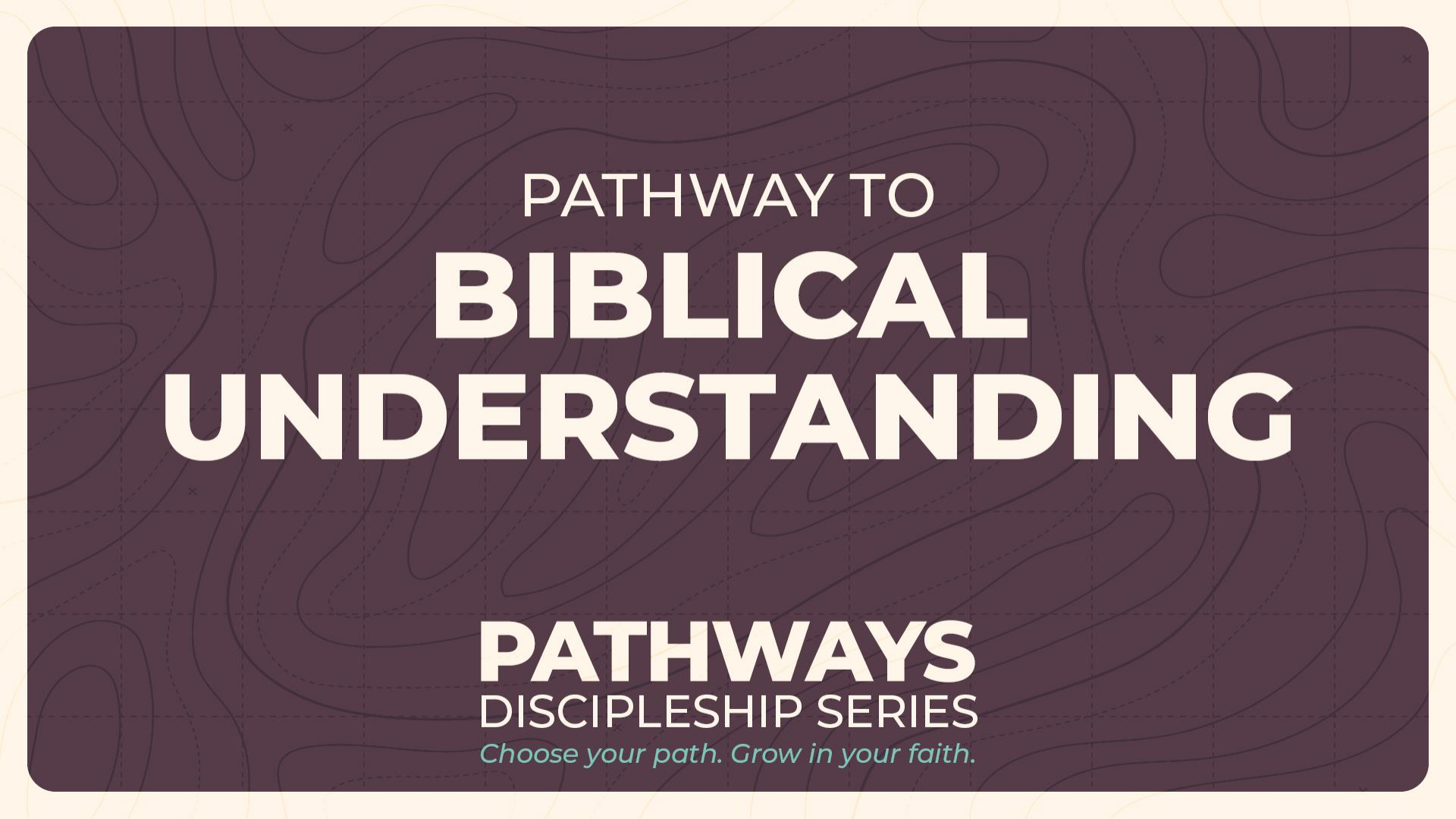
Speaker: James Greever

- #### IV. Interactive Exercise

- ## V. Conclusion — Know It, Understand It, Live It, Share It

- ## NOTES:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper designed for writing. It features ten horizontal blue ruling lines spaced evenly down the page. A single vertical red margin line runs along the left edge, creating a narrow left margin. The entire page is set against a light beige background decorated with faint, flowing, golden-yellow wavy lines that add a decorative touch without distracting from the writing area.

The background of the entire image is a dark purple topographic map with white contour lines. A faint, light-colored grid is also visible over the map. The text is centered and uses a clean, sans-serif font.

PATHWAY TO **BIBLICAL** **UNDERSTANDING**

PATHWAYS
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Choose your path. Grow in your faith.

**Responding to Common Questions or
Challenges to the Bible
&
Sharing Biblical Truth with Grace and
Confidence**

**Be Ready to Give an
Answer**

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

**We are to be ready—that requires
biblical understanding.**

**We are to give an answer—that
requires confidence.**

**But we are to answer with meekness
and fear—that requires grace and
humility.**

2 Timothy 2:15

**Study to shew thyself approved
unto God, a workman that
needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Responding to Common Challenges to the Bible

Challenge 1:

**“Why should I believe
the Bible?”**

2 Timothy 3:16–17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:20–21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

THE 3 “C”s

Context

Cross-Reference

Christ

Challenge 2:

**Hasn't the Bible been
changed over the
years?**

Matthew 24:35

**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but
my words shall not pass away.**

Psalm 119:89

**For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled
in heaven.**

Challenge 3:

**Doesn't the Bible
contradict itself?**

Ask:

- **Who is speaking?**
- **Who is being addressed?**
- **What happened before and afterward?**
- **What is the genre? Is this history, prophecy, poetry, doctrine, a parable, or another genre?**
- **Are two passages describing the same event from different perspectives?**

This is part of “rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Challenge 4:

Why should I obey the Bible when culture has changed?

Isaiah 40:8

**The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
but the word of our God shall stand for
ever.**

2 Timothy 4:3–4

**[Paul is charging Timothy to, among other things,
Preach the Word]**

**For the time will come when they will
not endure sound doctrine; but after
their own lusts shall they heap to
themselves teachers, having itching
ears; And they shall turn away their
ears from the truth, and shall be
turned unto fables.**

Challenge 5:

**Does doctrine really
matter as long as I
believe in Jesus?**

1 Timothy 4:16

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them...

Acts 2:42

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**When people asked:
Acts 2:37 - "...Men and brethren, what
shall we do?"**

**Peter did not respond, "Doctrine
doesn't matter as long as you are
sincere."**

Acts 2:38

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.



Sharing Biblical Truth with Grace and Confidence

John 1:14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

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**Listen before
answering**

James 1:19

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

Matthew 10:16

**Behold, I send you forth as sheep in
the midst of wolves: be ye therefore
wise as serpents, and harmless as
doves.**

**Don't confuse
confidence with
aggression**

2 Timothy 2:24–25

**And the servant of the Lord must not
strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt
to teach, patient, In meekness
instructing those that oppose
themselves...**

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**Take people to
Scripture**



**Speak the truth in
love**

**Remember who
actually produces
illumination**

John 16:13

**Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is
come, he will guide you into all truth...**

Someone says:

“I don’t think baptism matters. I believe in Jesus, and that’s enough.”

Philip gives us an excellent model.

Acts 8:30–31

**And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him
read the prophet Esaias, and said,
Understandest thou what thou readest? And
he said, How can I, except some man should
guide me?**

**Philip asked a question, listened, and then
taught.**

Acts 8:35

**Then Philip opened his mouth, and
began at the same scripture, and
preached unto him Jesus.**

That is biblical evangelism.

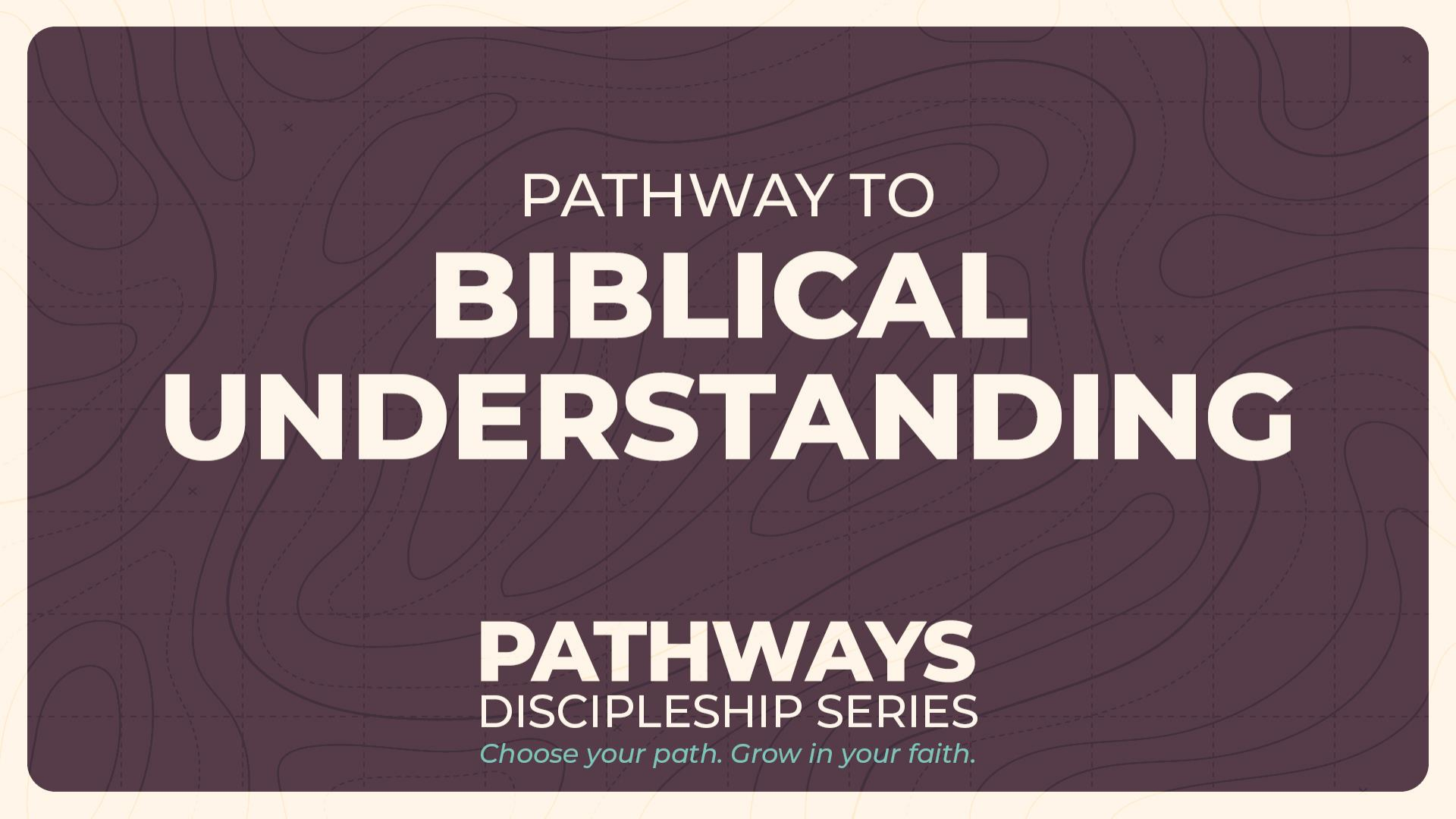
**Know It, Live It,
Share It**

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

Our challenge is to:

- **Know the Word.**
- **Understand the Word.**
- **Live the Word.**
- **Share the Word.**

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