

# The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted December 19, 2021

**T I T L E: Baptists and the Bible and Understanding the Times**

**T E X T: Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:12, 16; 1 Cor. 1:18,25;  
Psalm 119:89; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Heb. 4:12**

## **I. UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES IN THE CONTEXT OF BIBLICAL EXPRESSION**

- A. It should not be surprising to any Christian when he or she becomes the target of liberal and/or secular thinking or for that matter prosecution when expressing biblical teaching and/or theology, especially theology that is contrary to contemporary narratives which are often devoid of or even interested in what the Bible may have to say about a particular topic especially when the topic of discussion falls beneath the heading of moral and/or ethical behavior.**

**2 Timothy 3:12** ----Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

**Matthew 5:10–12** ---- **10** "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. **12** "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**FINLAND PUTS THE BIBLE ON TRIAL** — Yesterday, Europe's biggest religious freedom case went to trial. A Finnish member of parliament, Paivi Rasanen, has been charged by the Finnish prosecutor general with

three counts of “ethnic agitation,” a hate speech provision in Finland’s criminal code. Each count relates to Rasanen’s respectful expression of widely held Christian beliefs.

On “Washington Watch,” Paul Coleman, Rasanen’s lawyer from Alliance Defending Freedom International, explained the process: “[Rasanen] was invited to the police station. She was interrogated, asked about her Christian beliefs, asked about what the Bible taught, about what she meant by this tweet, and then in the process of this investigation, they then started digging up many other things that she has said and written over the years. They went back almost two decades. They found a pamphlet that she wrote for her church in 2004. They extracted three minutes of a radio debate, took it out of context and used that. And they compiled all of these things together and then charged her with hate speech.”

- B. Also, it should not be surprising to any Christian when he or she discovers that the scriptures are often discounted, if not outright rejected, as having any authority let alone ultimate authority in contemporary thought and/or application to contemporary issues having been supplanted by the so called wisdom and/or reasoning of man as the pinnacle of intelligence especially when determining right and wrong.**

**1 Corinthians 1:18** ----For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 1:25** ----Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

## **II. UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND THE OBJECTIVE INTERPRETATION (S) OF SCRIPTURE**

**Psalms 119:89** ----Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

- A. For the most part Baptists encourage a literal approach to the interpretation of scripture. That is, when the plain sense makes good**

**sense there is no need to seek another sense.**

In today's culture it is not uncommon for the plain sense approach to interpreting scripture to be manipulated to fit a particular narrative that's more inline with liberal theology.

**B. There are times even in the context of Christian circles when a subjective approach to the truth claims of scripture which often appeal to our emotions trump the objective approach to interpreting the truth of God's word.**

Song... He Lives... you ask me how I know He lives He lives within my heart (**subjective**) ... We know He lives because the Bible says He does...(b**jective**)

Baptist's would encourage us to believe the scriptures not our feelings. Fact over feeling.

...shall be saved... not feel saved .... if we confess our sins...etc. He is faithful to forgive us of our sins although we may struggle with our feelings regarding forgiveness

### **III. UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND THE BIBLE AS THE SUPREME AND FINAL AUTHORITY FOR CHRISTIANS IN ALL MATTERS OF FAITH AND PRACTICE**

**2 Timothy 3:16** ----All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

**2 Peter 1:20–21** ---- **20** But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, **21** for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

- A. In today's culture the authority of God's word is being supplanted by the so-called superior intelligence and/or reasoning of man.**

Man thinks he knows better than God.

- B. In the Christian world-view regardless of what contemporary culture may be saying the Bible is the only divinely authoritative "thus saith the Lord document," the "Sword of the Spirit" if you please, to be used in fighting the battle for right and wrong in any era of time since its principles and precepts never become antiquated because God Himself is ever the source for holiness of life and determining agent of right and wrong.**

**Hebrews 4:12** ----For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Conclusion:**