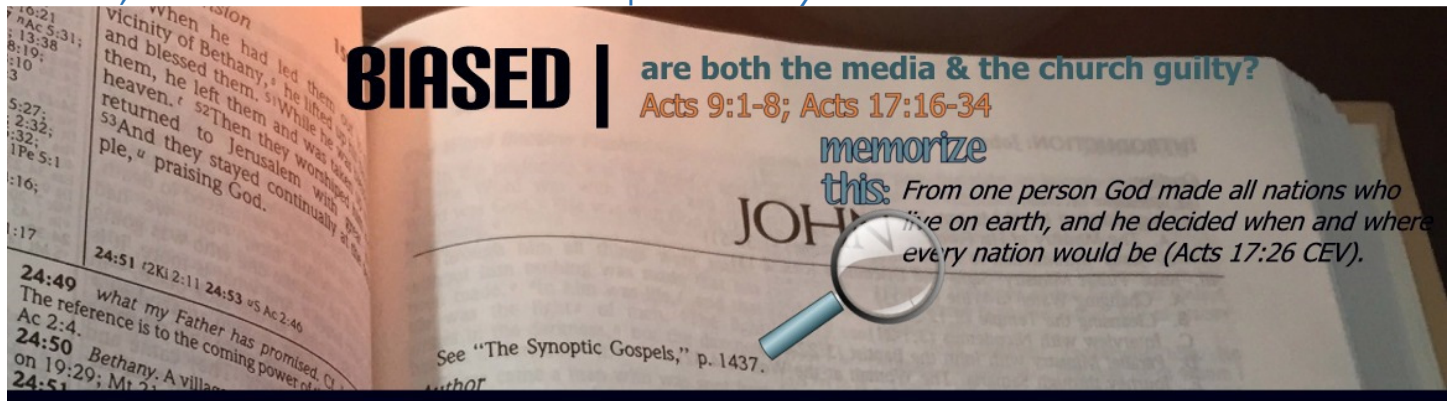


Biased, Lesson One: Is There Bias? | Summary



points to ponder

Is the media biased against Christianity? Does it differ on a national to local scale? Aren't we all biased?

words to wrangle

What are the differences between bias, prejudiced and tolerance? Can a person not tolerate some things and still not be biased?

conclusions to consider

The more diverse our culture becomes, the less "Christian" the worldview becomes. The Christian needs to speak the truth about our hope so an ungodly world can understand.

read the daily Bible verses at the KBS website

I first developed these lessons in the summer of 2012 as the nation was awaiting the November presidential elections. The idea came about in response to pieces of media coverage that appeared to me to be biased against conservative, Christian values. Years later, in the midst of accusations and cries of "fake news," the issues continue. Is there a media against people of faith, or is it just a matter of perspective?

Once we have considered if and where a bias exists, the important work of this study is just about to begin.

The thrust of our lessons will center around three important concepts: 1) Will there always be a bias against Christianity by those who are not Christians? 2) Is there a way to present the message of the gospel that stays consistent with its truth and yet minimizes its opposition? and finally, 3) Do I know the message of the gospel well enough that I could present it in a way that would minimize its opposition?

Although the Scriptural focus is centered on two passages in the book of Acts, we will be considering a handful of verses throughout the New Testament to build a solid, biblical perspective on this issue of bias.

There is a fascinating verse of Scripture in Ephesians 1 that helps us build a perspective on how we can keep from being biased. The word picture that Paul paints is the word translated "enlightened" is the Greek word φωτίζω *pho-teedzo*. Literally the word means "to shine," and is the word from which we get "photo." Paul is emphasizing that he wants us to be able to "be crystal clear, snapshot perfect" about the hope we have in Christ. We are to look at matters of life and faith as if we are looking at a photograph – examining the details, the nuances, the signatures – to see God's presence.

And when we look that closely, that clearly, at ourselves and the world around us – we won't be biased, we will be discerning. We will consider carefully what we hear. We will give attention to what we see. We will give the possibility of God a fair hearing.