

Losing My Religion
Part 2: **The Holy Hand Grenade**
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Southside Baptist Church
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Passage [READ IT]:

John 5:33-47

Principles [KNOW THEM]:

1. The Bible is not a book to **establish religion**, but a book that records the **failure** of **all religions**.
2. Religion confuses the **treasure map** for the **treasure**
3. The **entire Bible** is God's treasure map leading us away from self-help **religion** and into a relationship with **Jesus**.

Practices [DO THEM]:

1. Read your Bible through the lens of **Jesus**, His life, His teachings, His death and resurrection.
2. Attend **Starting Point** beginning March 8 at 9:00 a.m.
3. Attend **Bible 101** this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Daily Readings:

Monday: John 5

Tuesday: Luke 24

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 1

Thursday: 2 Timothy 2

Friday: 2 Timothy 3

Saturday: Hebrews 1

Sunday: Hebrews 3-4

Past sermon series on this topic:

Because: Why we teach from the Bible is every sermon (October 22, 2017)

ssbc.church/gather/message-series

Check out these books on this topic:

The End of Religion, Bruxy Cavey

Eat This Book, Eugene Peterson

Small Group Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. Does a person have to "believe the Bible" to be a Christian? Why or why not?
3. How would you describe the Bible to a person who has never read or heard of it?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

The Bible is not just one of many ancient religious texts. It points, not to itself or to religion as the way to God, but it points instead to Jesus Christ. In 2 Timothy, Paul describes the Bible as *collaborative*, *useful* and *sufficient*. Let's look at each of these three simple words:

4. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17.
5. The Bible is **COLLABORATIVE** in its development, fulfillment, and interpretation.
 - a. Read 2 Peter 1:21. How did God collaborate with man in the development of the Bible?
 - b. Read John 1:14. How did word and flesh collaborate to bring about the fulfillment of the Bible?
 - c. Read 2 Timothy 1:5-6 & 2 Timothy 3:10 & 14. In what ways is the Bible best interpreted through collaboration? Why is it important to read and interpret the Bible in community?
6. The Bible is **USEFUL**.
 - a. Secular humanists tend to reject the Bible as useless while many religious people make it an idol. Why are both of these extremes a mistake?
 - b. What makes a treasure map valuable? If the Bible is a treasure map, what is the treasure?
 - c. Read 2 Kings 18:1-4. How does this passage highlight an example of a time when people confused a map with its treasure?
7. The Bible is **SUFFICIENT**.
 - a. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 - b. What does Paul say the Bible is sufficient to do?
 - c. The opposite of sufficient is insufficient while the perversion of sufficient is exhaustive. Critics of the Bible claim it is insufficient, but many religious people claim that it is exhaustive about every aspect of life. Why are both extremes a mistake?
 - d. Can you think of examples where the Bible is not exhaustive? Why might God have chosen to leave some questions unanswered? Is there authority in divine silence?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

8. Do you use the Bible to make decisions? If so, how? Can you give an example of a time when you made a decision based on scripture? How does your relationship with Jesus define how you read and understand scripture? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.