

## **The Encouragement of Scripture (Romans 15:4)**

Introduction: *Too much reverence for the Bible??*

### **I. IS THE BIBLE A HOLY RELIC OR LIVING WORD?**

- A. It contains a message we need to hear everyday  
(v. 4)
- B. It contains a message with an immediacy about it  
(v. 4)
- C. It contains a message by, for, & to living people  
(from Genesis to the Psalms to Jesus)

### **II. THE BIBLE IS A LIVING ENCOUNTER BETWEEN GOD AND MAN**

- A. God comes where we are to listen, to understand,  
to speak (v.4)
- B. It contains earth, gutsy stories with God as the  
reality in the middle of it all
- C. We need to get away from “over spiritualizing” the  
Bible, Church, our Faith

Conclusion: *Jesus is the key to the puzzle* (John 20:31)