

Interview w/ Alan Shelby (1 hour)
Saturday, November 26th, 9:30-10:30am CST
Goals:

- To give people an overview of who Andy Stanley is and his influence.
- To refute ideas proposed in a series of Andy Stanley's sermons that undermine the central authority of the Bible.

Segment #1 // The Problem with Andy Stanley (45-60 min)

- **Intro to the Postscript.**
 - Pastor Andy Stanley, founder of North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, GA is a highly influential author and public speaker. Despite having been raised under baptistic teaching and a traditional hermeneutic, Stanley has had several concerning things to say about the Bible over the last four or five years.
 - In a 2018 sermon series titled "Aftermath", Stanley's [introduction](#) states the following,

If you were raised on a version of Christianity that relied on the Bible as the foundation of faith, a version that was eventually dismantled by academia or the realities of life, maybe it's time for you to change your mind about Jesus. Maybe it's time for you to consider the version of Christianity that relies on the event of the resurrection of Jesus as its foundation. If you gave up your faith because of something about or in the Bible, maybe you gave up unnecessarily.

- The implication here being that the Bible is not our ultimate authority, rather the traditions of the church fathers and the historical account of the resurrection.
 - To discuss Andy Stanley's pronouncements, we have invited Pastor Alan Shelby, Dean of the Living Faith Bible Institute. Welcome Alan.
- **Alan, let's start by discussing who Andy Stanley is and how he came to a place of prominence and influence.**
 - **Let's begin diving into the subject matter by listening this sermon series that Stanley preached called "Investigating Jesus" where he begins the series by calling the authors of the Bible "superstitious".** Video Clip #1- Investigating Jesus pt. 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNYz-jXBSj8> (0:00-2:47)
 - Okay, so Stanley is essentially apologizing for a Christianity that believes in the literality of scripture and his justification is that the "ancient authors" were superstitious. *What's your response to this kind of claim?*
 - **He goes a step further in a sermon called "The Bible Told Me So" that furthers this point and solidly puts him the realm of heresy.** Video Clip #2- Who Needs God: The Bible Told Me So <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtzDa6dK7Bq> (6:41-10:05)
 - He goes on to basically say that the Bible is not divine in its record or depiction of God - - his claim being that Christianity was never about a

book “So don’t believe the Bible, believe the historical account of the resurrection”. *What is your response to these undermining claims?*

- He goes on in this same sermon to make the claim that the many New Testament manuscripts and its variant copies provide us with a strong historical record that is gives us evidence of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection – he says the “Christianity does not hang by the thread of the Bible”. *What do you make of this perspective?*

- **Now let’s take a listen to this excerpt from the Aftermath series where he makes several more astounding claims.** Video Clip #3 – Aftermath, Pt 3:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pShxFTNRCWI> (33:17-34:37 & 35:43-36:40)

- *What does Stanley mean when he suggests that the Old Testament was intended to just be the “back story to the main story”? Why is what he is saying about “unhitching from the Old Testament” such a big deal?*

- **Let’s listen to another clip, again from the Aftermath series.** Video Clip #4 –

Aftermath pt 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBX08olAoFw> (33:05-34:37)

- *Why is this a shallow understanding of the old and new covenant?*

- **Andy Stanley has become well known over the years for his ability to reach millennials - much of his rhetoric could be reduced to trying to sound counter cultural – but when it comes down to it, why is what he is preaching misleading at best?**