

The Reliability of the Bible

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may **be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

“Thy word is **a lamp** unto my feet, and **a light** unto my path.” - Psalm 119:105 KJV

BIBLE PLEDGE

“I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God’s Holy Word. I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Its words I will hide in my heart that I may not sin against God.”

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE—3 TESTS

1. The _____ Test

- What do the Bible writers claim about what they’ve written?

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses** of his majesty. - 2 Peter 1:16 NIV

Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all **the Scriptures** concerning himself. - Luke 24:27 NIV

2. The _____ Test

- What does the outside-the-Bible evidence say about the Bible?

A. _____ Verification.

B. _____ Verification.

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.”

- Nelson Glueck

3. The _____ Test

- How well do the original documents compare to the translations of today?

“For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.” - Matthew 5:18 NIV

“I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.” - Isaiah 46:10 NIV

“My Word... goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” - Isaiah 55:11 NIV

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins.** And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” - Acts 2:38 NIV

DISCUSSION GUIDE

This week’s message explained how in the end the ultimate measure of the reliability of the Bible is found in the effect that it has on people.

- Describe a time when you were reading the Bible and the story of God’s unconditional love really came alive for you?
- Suppose someone asked you why you believe the Bible is true. How would you respond?

- Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. This Scripture reminds us that God's Word is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Explain how God's Word has recently impacted you in one of these ways.
- We've been reciting the Bible Pledge. Describe an occasion when you allowed God's Word to be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path. How did that occasion change your life?
- What did God speak to you during this message? Discuss it.
- How can you pray this week how you might best incorporate the reading of God's Word daily?

(If you don't know how to study God's Word, we'll examine this subject in more detail next week. Have you started a daily Bible Reading Plan? Consider a Reading Plan on the Oasis App. Or begin reading the New Testament book of Acts, which is a history of the beginning of the church.)