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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Chair Bible Page 183 (NT Section)
In some places, God's Word is underlined with dots with Pastor Joe's commentary in the bracketed, lighter faced text.

A. Foundational Statement

Regarding where we stand on moral and ethical positions, it is not “what” we decide but “how” we decide that is most important.

- Pastor Joe

Scientific Method (Science lab) Evidentiary Method (Court room)
Moral/Ethical Method Philosophical Method Political Method
Idiosyncratic Method Biblical/Theological Method

B. “What” We Need to Decide On

Abortion Traditional Marriage LGBTQQIA+ Wokeness

Parental Rights Euthanasia Suicide Aging and Death

Infertility, Reproductive Technology, and Adoption Politics/Morality

Freedom of Religion Freedom of Speech Second Amendment

Racial Discrimination Self Defense Taxes Social Media Morality

Divorce Pornography Environmental Issues CRT-I/DEI/CEI

Domestic Violence Gambling Bullying Influence Abuse(s)

C. “How” We need to Decide

A Case for The Reliability of Scripture

FTR: *Pastor Joe is an inerrantist* (He believes the Bible is true, in every way, and without error to any truth and/or subject when God revealed it.)

Precisely, Pastor Joe believes in the **verbal, plenary, inerrant, inspiration of the Holy Scriptures**. POINT: *Joe holds a high view of Scripture!*

He also believes in the **infallibility and sufficiency** of the Bible you now hold in your hands.

1. Because of the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy.

Did you know that hundreds of Old Testament predictions found their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, alone?

2. Because of Biblical archeological evidence.

Archeology confirms that the Bible is true. No other religious text passes the test of Biblical archeology.

3. Because of paleographical evidence.

Paleography, the study of ancient writing systems and the deciphering and dating of historical manuscripts, confirms the reliability of Scripture.

4. Because of its denunciation of sin.

Only the Bible tells us about our true condition without God. MOST other religions convey man as “becoming better;” not so in Scripture.

2 Peter 1:16–21, NASB95 -¹⁶ *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

We can believe in the reliability of Scripture because (based on 2 Peter 1:16-21) it is a reliable collection of historical documents written down by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses that report to us supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies; they claimed that their writings were divine rather than human in origin!

Adapted from quotes and material by Dr. Voddie Baucham's "Expository Apologetics," Rev. CT Studd, British Missionary, "The Fundamentals," and CS Lewis' "The Inerrancy of Scripture."

Because...it is a reliable collection of historical documents...

- No myths, no fairytales, no cunningly devised stories

...written down by eyewitnesses...

2 Peter 1:16, NASB95 - ¹⁶ *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*

Having corroborating eyewitnesses is key here:

We believe the Bible because it is an all-sufficient, reliable, internally consistent, sacred writing corroborated in three languages—Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic—written on three continents—Asia, Africa and Europe—and written by over 40 authors (most of which didn't even know each other) who wrote over a 1,500-year period resulting in over 60 ancient manuscript families that all tell a singularly woven story with Christ as its grand subject, man's redemption, its design and the glory of God, its end.

...during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses...

- There would be 3 levels of conspiracy for this NOT to be true.

"The only thing I can figure is this: Paul's claim must have been doctored up and changed so many times...by overzealous monks seeking to make a lie a truth so they could maintain a concocted narrative of Jesus' divinity...after all, all theologians know we do not have the autographa's (sic) and therefore, we can't really know what they said for sure."

- Charles Templeton (nemesi to Rev. Billy Graham)

A. Manuscript Conspiracy - We have well over 6,000 copies of NT/OT matching manuscripts (MSS) written over many years.

B. Languages Conspiracy – The Bible was written in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic but copied in Syriac, Coptic and Latin within 50 years of Christ.

C. Commentary Conspiracy – You would also have to deal with the different comments recorded by the writers and copiers of Scripture. *"If all we had was the commentary of the NT fathers, we could reproduce more than 97% of the entire scriptures."*

– Dr. Bruce Metzger

...that report to us supernatural events...

2 Peter 1:16-21, NASB95 - ¹⁶ *...we were eyewitnesses of His majesty....*¹⁸ *and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

- Not superhuman but supernatural events!

...that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies...

2 Peter 1:19, NIV84 - ¹⁹ *And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.*

- There are 365 prophecies concerning Jesus that were predicted in the OT and fulfilled in the NT. (e.g., Ps. 22 written 450 years before crucifixion being invented.)

...they claimed that that their writings were divine rather than human in origin!

2 Peter 1:20–21, NASB95 - ²⁰ *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

THE POINT: As believers, we should make sure every conclusion we arrive at on moral and ethical issues is in keeping with and guided by God's reliable and sufficient Word.