

Reflecting on “How We Got Our Bible”
Doctrinal Series on The Scriptures
Sunday, April 7, 2024

1) **Read the following descriptions of the Bible.** Which of these statements most resonates with your view of Scripture? What parts of these quotes do you readily affirm? What parts do you take issue with?

- “The Bible is a book that tells one grand narrative, but by means of divergent viewpoints and different theologies. It tells of God’s acts but also reports some events that either may not have happened or have been significantly reshaped and transformed by centuries of tradition. ... This is the Bible we have, the Bible God gave us.” ¹

- “Anything in the Bible that looks miraculous or contrary to the normal functions of the natural world is not factual, but rather is mythological.” ²

- “Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God’s acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God’s saving grace in individual lives.”¹

2) In his book, *“Why Trust the Bible?”*, Greg Gilbert expresses his encouragement that most of the professing Christians he knows, “believe [the Bible], they stake their lives on it, and try to obey it.” However, he goes on to say, “My experience also tells me that a good number of Christians can’t explain *why* they trust the Bible. They just do.”

Later on, Gilbert asks two important questions of his Christian readers:

- Why do you trust the Bible?

- How would you explain to someone who doesn't believe the Bible *why* you trust it?

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with your Life Group.

3) **Read 2 Peter 1:13-21.** What two reasons does Peter give us to trust in the authority of Scripture? What do verses 19-21 tell us about *how* we got our Bible, and how does Peter compare this evidence with his own eyewitness testimony?

4) Peter gives more credence to the written revelation of God than his own experience. We will address this topic more next week, but practically speaking, how does Peter's view of the authority of Scripture align with your own? In other words, do you believe something more if you experience it, or if you read it in God's Word?

5) **Read Acts 17:1-15.** Briefly explain the difference between the Thessalonian and Berean approaches to the word of God. What would it look like to be a Berean in our culture today? ³

¹ Quotes for this question come from the book "Five Views on Biblical Inerrancy", and specifically contributors Peter Enns (who opposes Biblical inerrancy) and R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (who espouses it). Because our church would respectfully disagree with much of the opinions in this book, it is recommended that this resource should be used with utmost care and discretion

² James Burklo, as quoted by Alisa Childers in her article, "3 Beliefs Some Progressive Christians and Atheists Share." Posted 11/13/18 on <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/3-beliefs-progressive-christians-atheists-share/>

³ This question is adapted from the Study Guide for "Taking God At His Word" by Kevin DeYoung