

## Another “Gospel” Series

### (The Bible part 2)

#### 3.15.23

**II Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is inspired by God<sup>ἁ</sup> and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**II Peter 1:20-21** Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet’s own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

#### A. We can trust the New Testament

From: [crossexamined.org/12-reasons-to-trust-the-new-testament](http://crossexamined.org/12-reasons-to-trust-the-new-testament)

1. Multiple, Independent Sources Contributed to It
2. We Have Thousands of New Testament Manuscripts

We have *5824 copies* in the original Greek New Testament

New Testament Scholar Daniel Wallace puts it this way:

“The average classical Greek writer has less than 20 copies of his works still in existence. Stack them up, and they’re 4 feet high. If you stack up copies of the New Testament manuscripts, they would be over a mile high.”

3. The Manuscripts Were Written Early
4. The Documents Are a Collection of Eyewitness Accounts

**5. Non-Christian Sources Confirm the Most Important Details**

**Cornelius Tacitus (A.D. 55-120)**

**Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian (A.D. 38-100)**

**Jewish *Talmud*, "we learn that Jesus was conceived out of wedlock, gathered disciples, made blasphemous claims about himself, and worked miracles, but these miracles are attributed to sorcery and not to God."**

**6. We Can Reconstruct It Using Just Quotes of Early Church Fathers**

**7. Historical and Archeological Evidence Corroborate It**

- **The Pool of Siloam (John 9:1-12) uncovered in 2004.**
- **The Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9) excavated in 1888.**
- **Syrian Governor Quirinius (Luke 2:1-3) name discovered on a coin and a statue**
- **King Lysanias (Luke 3:1) listed on an inscription near Damascus**
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**8. It Fulfills Ancient Prophecies in Amazing Ways**

**9. It Contains Embarrassing Details ("Principle of embarrassment")**

**10. It Includes the Difficult Sayings of Jesus**

**11. A "Chain of Custody" Confirms The Content of the Originals**

## 12. It Contains “Undesigned Coincidences” That Verify Its Authenticity

**Matthew 26:67-68.** Then they spat in his face and beat him; others slapped him <sup>68</sup> and said, “Prophecy to us, Messiah! Who was it that hit you?”

**Luke 22:64,** After blindfolding him, they kept asking, “Prophecy! Who was it that hit you?”

---- J. Warner Wallace, a homicide detective trained to know when someone is telling the truth says,

“Every case I handle is like this; witnesses seldom agree on every detail. In fact, when two people agree completely on every detail of their account, I am inclined to believe that they have either contaminated each other’s observations or are working together to pull the wool over my eyes. I expect truthful, reliable eyewitnesses to disagree along the way.”

## 13. The New Testament writers abandoned their long held beliefs and practices for new ones and did not recant under the penalty of death

“Why would the apostles lie? If they lied what was their motive, what did they get out of it? What they got out of it was misunderstanding, rejection, persecution, torture, and martyrdom. Hardly a list of perks! Peter Kreeft

### II. What about textual variants?

[www.alisachildersblog.com/blog/3-textual-variants-every-christian-should-know-about](http://www.alisachildersblog.com/blog/3-textual-variants-every-christian-should-know-about)

#### A. What is a textual variant?

“Once in a while, a bit of text was even added or removed by a scribe after the original writing was sent out. All of these differences are called *textual variants*.”

**1 John 5:7-8** For there are three that testify:<sup>ⓐ</sup> <sup>8</sup> the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are in agreement.

### **Mark 16:9-20**

[<sup>9</sup> Early on the first day of the week, after he had risen, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. <sup>10</sup> She went and reported to those who had been with him, as they were mourning and weeping. <sup>11</sup> Yet, when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe it.

<sup>12</sup> After this, he appeared in a different form to two of them walking on their way into the country. <sup>13</sup> And they went and reported it to the rest, who did not believe them either.

<sup>14</sup> Later he appeared to the Eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table. He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who saw him after he had risen. <sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;<sup>ⓑ</sup> <sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes; <sup>ⓐ</sup> if they should drink anything deadly, it will not harm them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well.”

<sup>19</sup> So the Lord Jesus, after speaking to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by the accompanying signs.]

**John 7:53—8:11** <sup>53</sup> Then each one went to his house.<sup>ⓐ</sup>

<sup>1</sup> But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he went to the temple again, and all the people were coming to him. He sat down and began to teach them.

<sup>3</sup> Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, making her stand in the center. <sup>4</sup> “Teacher,” they said to him, “this woman was caught in the act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> They asked this to trap him, in order that they might have evidence to accuse him.

Jesus stooped down and started writing on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they persisted in questioning him, he stood up and said to them, “The one without

sin among you should be the first to throw a stone at her.”<sup>8</sup> Then he stooped down again and continued writing on the ground.<sup>9</sup> When they heard this, they left one by one, starting with the older men. Only he was left, with the woman in the center.<sup>10</sup> When Jesus stood up, he said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

<sup>11</sup> “No one, Lord,” she answered.

“Neither do I condemn you,” said Jesus. “Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”]

## **B. Why do Christians need to know about these variants?**

**“Often this information is used to blindside believers in an attempt to sabotage their faith or undermine their confidence in the Bible.”**

## **C. How should Christians respond?**

**--“We know what they are.**

**--They make up less than 1% of the entire New Testament.**

**--None of these variants impact any core doctrine—they don't challenge or cast doubt upon any essential Christian tenet of faith.**

**--These variants do not affect Biblical authority, inspiration, or inerrancy.”**