



# THIS WEEK

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KAILUA KONA, HAWAII

## events

**Welcome!** If you are new to Grace, have a request, or comment, please fill out a Connection Card on the back table in the Pavilion.

Ladies, our twice yearly **Silent Retreat** will be held on **April 22, 8:30am to 12:30pm** at the church.

### **Nursery and Kids' Church:**

Parents, please sign-in each child at the back table.

### **Middle School Students:**

Wednesdays 4:30-6pm

### **High School Students:**

Saturdays 5-7pm

The **Memorial Service for Les Salisbury** will be available on Facebook on **April 18 at noon**. Look for Barb's account at Barb Hoke Salisbury.

**Ruth journals** are now available on the back table.

### **Ways to Give:**

- Online on our website or app
- Giving box on Sundays
- Mail a check to the church



## SERMON NOTES

Andrew Severinsen - – The Reliability of Scripture  
2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21

### **The Bible — God speaks to us**

**Big Idea:** The truth is that we have an incredibly well-preserved text that is accurate, reliable, and trustworthy.

- What evidence is there that the Bible comes from God besides its claiming so?
- Are we sure this is what God exactly intended to say?
- What about contradictions in the Bible?
- Who decides which books make up the Bible?

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## GRACE GROUP Discussion Questions

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### **Was the Bible written by God or humans?**

1. Have you ever had a conversation with someone who said something to the effect of "The Bible is a product of man, not of God"? How did you respond?
2. When you read Scripture right now, do you view it as words from an all-knowing, all-powerful God, or read it just like you would any other book? Why do you think that is?
3. Could someone believe that God did not play a part in Scripture and still be a Christian?
4. Some Bibles highlight quotations from Jesus in red letters, and some people choose only to focus on words in red. How would you explain the problem with that way of reading the Bible?
5. What does it tell us about God that He would use people to compose His Scriptures? What does it tell us about God that He would provide Scripture at all?

### **Are there errors in the Bible?**

1. Can you think of a situation in which a friend or a family member said something to you that turned out not to be true? How did that impact your relationship?
2. What difference would it make to you if you found out that portions of the Bible were not completely true?
3. How would you respond to someone who said, "I believe that the central message of the Bible is true, but not all of the details"?
4. Do you know of any places in the Bible where there might be an error? Did you investigate them at all?

### **Has the Bible changed over time?**

1. Have you ever heard someone accuse the Bible of changing over time? What parts of Scripture do people believe changed? Why does the telephone game analogy not apply to the Bible?
2. If over hundreds of years a verse of Scripture keeps the same meaning, but a few words are rearranged or spelled slightly differently, do those count as "changes" to Scripture?

### **Are there contradictions in the Bible?**

1. Say you ran across a passage in the Bible that appears to contradict another passage. What would be the best steps to take to look into this and determine if it is a genuine contradiction?
2. After Jesus died, John 20:1 only mentions that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. But Matthew 28:1 says that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to His tomb. Mark 16:1 says that Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went. Is this a contradiction? What might be a possible explanation?
3. Some Christian scholars and writers have made a point of saying that the fact that each of the Gospels explains things in a slightly different way is actually strong evidence for the reliability of the Bible. Why would that be?