



“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.” (1Pt 3:15-16)

³⁷ And [Jesus] said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

³⁸ This is the great and first commandment” (Mt 22:37-38)

Trust The Bible

... and watch out for Progressive Christianity.

Big Idea: God gave us the Bible so that we could know him; therefore, we trust the Bible and grow in our faith.

Trust the Bible

1. The most amazing book ever.
2. Relativism is junk.
3. Watch out for progressive Christianity.

1. The most amazing book ever.

“¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2Ti 3:15-16)

The Bible is historically authentic.

(Criteria of authenticity)

- i. The accounts fit with known historical facts of the time and place.
- ii. Embarrassing details are included.
- iii. The Bible contains events that cannot be adequately explained by extrapolation nor by revisionism.
- iv. Multiple sources/writers convey the same message.
- v. The events fit with what has already been established about Jesus.

The Bible is historically accurate.

(It's not legend)

- i. The gospels were written down and circulated while eyewitnesses still lived.
- ii. The gospels use sources that go back to within 10 years of Jesus' death.
- iii. Paul's letters have been dated to within 5 years of Jesus' death.
- iv. Legends do not arise this quickly.

The Bible was copied correctly.

(Things aren't missing and weren't added)

- i. 24,000+ ancient manuscripts in multiple languages.
- ii. Fragments exist within 100 years of Jesus.
- iii. Dead Sea Scrolls (found in 1946 in Qumran Caves) confirm transmission reliability.
- iv. These manuscripts agree almost 100%.
- v. The next closest ancient document is Homer's Iliad, which only has 643 copies and no copies exist within 500 years of the original document.
- vi. Manuscript variances are largely spelling or a slip of the hand.
- vii. No textual variants impact doctrine.

NEW TESTAMENT RELIABILITY				
	WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME SPAN (years)	COPIES
Homer's, ILIAD	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500	643
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,200	7
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1,400	40
Caesar, GALLIC WARS	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1,000	10
Tacitus, ANNALS	A.D. 56-120	A.D. 1000	900	3
Herodotus, HISTORY	484-425 B.C.	A.D. 100	600	75
Livy, Hist. ROME	59 B.C.-A.D. 17	A.D. 300	400	27
NEW TESTAMENT evangelicalbible.com	A.D. ~50-100	portions: A.D. 100-150 entire books: A.D. 150-200 entire NT: c. A.D. 300	29-100	5,800 Greek MSS. 10,000 Latin MSS 9,800 Syriac, Coptic, etc ~36,000 Patristic quotations

The Bible is the greatest book of all time. The Bible was composed over 1600 years by more than 40 authors from many walks of life. It was written in 3 languages on 3 different continents. Through all of this, the Bible contains one focused message – God’s redemption of mankind.

2. Relativism is junk.

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰ “I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” (Jer 17:9-10)

Four reason Relativism leads to absurdity.

- i. Relativists cannot complain about evil or celebrate good.
- ii. Moral relativists cannot accuse others of wrongdoing.
- iii. Majority opinion changes moral truth.
- iv. In a relativist's culture, it would be immoral to initiate change.

3. Watch out for progressive Christianity.

“⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Col 2:6-8).

Watch out for progressive Christianity!

- i. Devalues truth statements (relativism).
- ii. Low view of scripture; questions it but doesn't seek answers.
- iii. Redefines sin.
- iv. Elevates personal conscience, experience, and cultural norms.
- v. Uses the same vocabulary, but different dictionary (this is why it's so sneaky).

You can trust the Bible to know God and grow in your relationship with him.