

SUNDAY MORNING MESSAGE – 08-31-14
SERIES: WHAT IF IT'S TRUE?
WEEK 3 – WHAT IF THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

*"Christians believe the Bible is inspired by God . . .
 written by holy men who were guided by the Holy Spirit."
 "What they wrote was reliable and accurate in every way."
 - Elmer Towns, the cofounder of liberty university*

This Bible:

- A collection of **66** different books
- Written from **1500 BC** to **100 AD**,
- By **40** different authors,
- In **3** different languages.
- The first **39** books make up the Old Testament
- The last **27** books make up the New Testament

1. Why we can believe the Bible is God's inspired Word

A. The OLD TESTAMENT

1. Author's believed it

*"The phrase, "Thus says the Lord," or its equivalent, occurs
 more than 2,000 times in the Old Testament."
 - Bill Bright*

2. Accurate Prophecies

3. Jesus believed it

*"Jesus believed that the Old Testament was divinely inspired, the veritable Word of
 God. He said, 'the Scripture cannot be broken' (John 10:35). He referred to Scripture as
 'the commandment of God' (Matthew 15:3) and as the 'Word of God' (Mark 7:13)."
 - Josh McDowell*

B. The NEW TESTAMENT:

1. Jesus foretold the Holy Spirit's work

John 14:26 (ESV)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

John 16:13 (ESV)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

2. Author's testimony

2 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV)

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 14:37 (ESV)

If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.

3. Early Church Confirmed

C. Reliability

The **Bibliographic test**: the more manuscripts you have and the closer you are in time to the original writing the more likely you have accurate copies.

Plato – 1300 years between original and the earliest copies: we have 210 copies

Ceaser, galic wars – 950 years btwn original and the earliest copies: we have 251 copies

Homer/Iliad – 400 yrs years btwn original and the earliest copies: we have 1757 copies

Old Testament – 150 yrs years btwn original and the earliest copy: we have 10000+

New Testament – 40 years – years btwn original and the earliest copies: we have over 24000 copies.

The Bible Passes with the grade: A+++

2. If the Bible is the Inspired Word of God, then:

A. Elevate it

B. Pursue it

Psalm 19:7-10 (ESV)

*The law of the LORD is perfect, **reviving the soul**; the testimony of the LORD is sure, **making wise the simple**; 8 the precepts of the LORD are right, **rejoicing the heart**; the commandment of the LORD is pure, **enlightening the eyes**; 9 the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. 10 **More to be desired are they than gold**, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.*

C. Do it

Luke 11:28 (ESV)

But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

James 1:22 (ESV)

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

"Some people like to read so many [Bible] chapters every day. I would not dissuade them from the practice, but I would rather lay my soul asoak in half a dozen verses all day than rinse my hand in several chapters. Oh, to be bathed in a text of Scripture, and to let it be sucked up in your very soul, till it saturates your heart!"

- Charles H. Spurgeon