

We Believe: The Bible

Community group questions

1. Have you ever doubted the accuracy of the Bible?
2. How do you feel when people ask you questions about the Bible?
3. Do you go to the Bible for answers to life's questions?
4. Do you spend time in the Bible each day?

As we begin our series I want you tell you that there are four things I want to accomplish in this series.

-Learn Something New For those of you that are newer, younger or less educated in your faith, you will probably learn a lot and some of this material may be very new to you.

-Reminder/Refresher For those of you that this material is not new and you are older in your faith, this may help fill in some gaps or questions you may have had or serve as a reminder of what we believe as Christians.

-Defend Your Faith For all of us this will be apologetic training, whether you knew these things before or not, take some notes to help explain your faith to other people.

-For all that desire membership This will serve our church for our membership process.

Today we will start with...

Article of Faith #1

We believe in the absolute authority and accuracy of the 66 books of the Bible, it's full verbal inspiration in the original manuscripts and it's all sufficiency as the Christians rule of faith and practice.

The Bible is...a book from God made up of 66 books with 40 different authors and it is what we base all our Christian beliefs on.

Immanuel Kant said “The existence of the Bible, as a book for the people, is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced. Every attempt to belittle it is a crime against humanity”.

We are going to learn the Bible is Inspired by God, accurate and Sufficient for our needs.

The first point we will deal with is **The Bible is...**

Inspired – Charles Ryrie gives a definition of inspiration- *God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings. (Basic Theology Ryrie 71)*

The two main Scriptures for this belief are 2 Timothy 3:16a & 2 Peter 1:19-21

2 Timothy 3:16a tells us what happened (read passage) “Scriptures were breathed out by God”

2 Peter 1:19-21 tells us how this happened (read passage) “men spoke from God moved by the Holy Spirit”

We have to remember that when we discuss this topic with other people we are dealing with original manuscripts of the Bible in its original languages, these are the words from God.

You may ask what about our English version? It is inspired as well but you may have heard the term “lost in translation” a great example of that are the Psalms, many were written and set to music and were catchy Hebrew worship songs, but translated into English they are not very catchy. Poetic writings in the Bible fall victim to the same thing when translated.

Other than those types of nuances the Bible we hold in our hand is as close as we are going to get translated from the original languages. Which brings us to our next point that **the Bible is....**

Accurate- when dealing with the concept of accuracy or infallibility of Scripture we are really dealing with the concept of truth. Can we believe that the Bible is communicating truth?

John 17:17 Jesus prayed "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth"

Proverbs 30:5 says "Every word of God proves true"

Psalm 12:6 says The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

I realize that a criticism here is..."of course the Bible is going to say of itself that it is truth"

But through archeological discoveries we know the Bible is historically accurate and we know that prophecies have come to pass. There are many examples of these two points that I could easily fill a few weeks of sermons.

The point is that in order to know something is true we need evidence to know it is true and the Bible provides history and fulfilled prophecy as the evidence.

Another point that I like to make is that when the whole truth is shared there may be details that are embarrassing for people involved and things that seem unbelievable.

If the Bible was something that people thought up and penned on their own those unbelievable stories would either be omitted or told

as fables or fairy tales, such as Jonah and the fish and the tower of Babel.

The writings that would bring embarrassment to the writers and characters would also be omitted, such as Peter's denial and the disciples scattering when Jesus was taken away to be crucified.

Since the Bible is inspired by God and accurate it is...

Sufficient for...

-knowledge of Salvation- 2 Timothy 3:15 GOSPEL

John 14:6, Acts 4:12

These verses are very clear about Salvation and many people see that and disagree with it like *Mark Twain who said Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand*

All the passages about salvation are very easy to understand and can be very bothersome to those that do not believe.

People are bothered by the fact that we are all sinners. People are bothered by the fact that the Bible says there is only one way to heaven. People are bothered by the fact that the results of sin is eternity in Hell and because of that they reject the claims for the Bible.

The Bible is not only sufficient for knowledge of salvation it is sufficient...

-Christian living- As believers in Jesus we have a responsibility to follow Jesus and Jesus has the authority to tell us how to live and He communicates that authority in His Word.

What does it mean that Jesus and the Bible have Authority to tell us how to live? Wayne Grudem says *"All the words of Scripture are God's*

word and to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God” (Systematic Theology Grudem 73)

Christian living has everything to do with believing what God says in His Word is true and then obeying it and one of the reasons we obey it because it is profitable

Listen to what **2 Timothy 3:16b-17** says

The Word is profitable for...

-Teaching-the Word teaches us what to do and what not to do

-Reproof-the Word convicts us and we find disapproval of our sinful actions. There is no wiggle room, if the Bible says something is sin, it is sin.

-Correction – The Word tells us which way to go when we are going the wrong way

Soren Kierkegaard said “When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, "It is talking to me, and about me.”

-Training in righteousness- The Word tells us what to do to be successful in the eyes of Jesus

The Bible is sufficient for knowledge of salvation, for Christian living and...

-purpose in life- *Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.”*

The word of God illuminates and gives us purpose and direction and reminds us what our purpose is and what is important.

This is why...*Thomas Jefferson said “I have always said that a studious perusal of the sacred volume will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands”*

Finally we realize the Bible is sufficient...

-answers to life's questions

Ronald Reagan "Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face."

As Christians we need to believe that God's Word speaks to everything we deal with in life. We can show others we believe that is true by going to the Scriptures when those problems and issues come our way.

The Bible is Inspired by God, Accurate and Sufficient for our needs.