



August 21, 2016
Celebration · 9:00 am
Elevation · 11:00 am
Pastors Eric Wakeling and Matt Davis

The Bible is Trustworthy

What is your level of trust in the Bible?

- I don't trust the Bible.
- I trust the Bible but I don't know why.
- I trust the Bible and I give it authority in my life.
- I trust the Bible but I don't give it authority in my life.

We Trust the Revelation of God because it is Inspired, Inerrant and Infallible

Calvary Church's first point in our Statement of Faith: We believe the sixty-six books of the Bible, consisting of all the books of the Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God. They are a supernatural revelation from God Himself. These books are inspired, inerrant and infallible, without error of any kind in every word and concept. They are the final authority on all matters they address, and all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life.

(Psalm 19:7-11; John 14:26; John 16:12-15; I Corinthians 2:12-16; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:16-21; I John 2:27)

• Inspired:

- All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16
- The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near. Revelation 1:1-3
- For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:11-12
- Additional passages on the inspiration of Scripture: Exodus 19, 20, 24; Deuteronomy 18:15-18; Hosea 1; Joel 1; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21

• Inerrant:

- Scripture is "God-breathed" or inspired by the Holy Spirit. God is true and perfect. Therefore the Scriptures, in their original autographs, are without error and are true. You will not find the word inerrancy in the Bible. But like the doctrine of the Trinity, it is a truth nevertheless taught in Scripture.
 - Psalm 119:160 - "The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting"
 - John 17:17 - "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."
 - Proverbs 30:5a - "Every word of God is tested"
- Support from archaeology - more than 25,000 archaeological discoveries have been found in a broad region that all support the truth of the Bible, none have gone against it.
- Support from extrabiblical non-Christian sources - Josephus (AD 37-100) was a Jewish historian who corroborates that Jesus was the leader of Christians, He did wonderful works and He was crucified. Pliny (AD 62-113), a Roman governor, verifies that Christians worshiped Jesus as God. Tacitus (AD 56-117), a Roman historian, refers to people's belief in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. The Talmud, rabbinic writings from around AD 200, mentions the belief of some in Jesus' virgin birth, miracles and crucifixion. There were also many Christian early citations of Scripture by Clement in 95, Papias in 130, Justin Martyr in 140, etc.

• Infallible:

- "The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8
- Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." Matthew 24:35 (Luke 21:33)

We Trust the Written Word of God because it is Reliable, Dependable and Authentic

- **Evidence One: Archaeological and Sociological**

- Repeatedly confirmed, minute, irrelevant details found in the Bible
 - Joshua 11 - The fire set by Joshua at Hazor
 - John 5 - Pool of Bethesda with five pillars or porticoes
 - Luke 7 - Funeral procession and the widow of Nain

- **Evidence Two: Transmission of the Word as seen in the Lodz Torah Scroll**

"O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation."
- Psalm 119:97-99

The Lodz Torah has been dated between 1450-1500 A.D. The scroll was written on thirty-six calfskin sheets or panels. When completely rolled out, it measures just over seventy-two feet.

- **Evidence Three: The Dead Sea Scrolls**

One of the most important factors supporting the accuracy of the Old Testament is the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which date from 200 B.C. to A.D. 68. In 1947, a Bedouin shepherd boy was traveling the northwest rim of the Dead Sea when he discovered a jar in a cave containing scrolls that had been hidden for nearly 2000 years.

Next Steps: Our Response to this Claim

1. If you don't trust the Bible or you trust it but don't know why: **INVESTIGATE IT**
 - Read one of the various pamphlets available in the bookstore: Why Trust the Bible; How We Got the Bible; 50 Proofs for the Bible
 - Read a few chapters in a book on questions about the Bible or about Christianity. These books are available in the bookstore: 77 FAQs about God and the Bible by Josh and Sean McDowell, The Big Book of Bible Answers by Ron Rhodes
 - Read a book on the reliability and authority of the Bible. These books are available in the bookstore: The Origin of the Bible by Philip Comfort; How We Got the Bible by Neil Lightfoot; and others
 - Watch one of the several RightNow Media courses on the reliability and authority of Scripture. You can find them at calvarylife.org/Bible
2. If you trust it and give it authority: **READ IT**
 - Find great online reading plans on the YouVersion Bible app for your mobile device.
 - If you don't have a Bible, feel free to take one of the Bibles on the back of the chairs in the Worship Center for free, or check out the many Bibles available for purchase in the Corner Bookstore.
 - For women, attend the 'Open Your Bible' LifeGroup on Tuesdays at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall, or Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in Fireside beginning on September 13. For more information about LifeGroups for women, visit calvarylife.org/women
3. If you trust it but aren't believing or living it: **GIVE IT AUTHORITY**

Next Sunday we will discuss how we give the Bible authority in our lives. Come back next Sunday at 9:00 am or 11:00 am and learn more.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What is your history with the Bible? When did you start reading it or learning about it? How comfortable were you with understanding it then and how has that grown over time?
2. Where did you place yourself on the Next Steps responses to the claims that the Bible is trustworthy? What steps do you want to take to grow in this area?
3. Take some time to discuss passages of Scripture that have been meaningful to you in your life.