

Can We Trust The Bible?

The Ancient Lie

Genesis 3:1-7

- You can't trust **God's word**.
- The Bible has **changed radically** over time.
- The Bible constantly **contradicts itself**.

The Truth About The Bible (without using the Bible)

- It is **textually** accurate.

Book	Date Written	Earliest Copies	Time Gap	No. of Copies
<i>Iliad</i> by Homer	800 BC	400 BC	400 yrs	643
Plato	400 BC	900 AD	1300 yrs	7
<i>Gallic Wars</i> by Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000 yrs	10
<i>History of Rome</i> by Livy	59 BC 17 AD	4 th Century 10 th Century	400 yrs 1000 yrs	1 partial 19
New Testament	50-100 AD	130 AD	50 yrs	Fragments
		200 AD	100 yrs	Books
		250 AD	150 yrs	N. Testament
		325 AD	225 yrs	5,600
		400-500 AD	400 yrs	24,600

From *Evidence That Demands A Verdict* by Josh McDowell

- It is **archaeologically** accurate.
1947 Dead Sea Scrolls: Isaiah 53 from 125 BC has 166 words. Differences: 17 letters, 10 spellings, 4 conjunctions,
3 added words = light... "they shall see ____"

The Purpose Of The Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17 Matthew 5:18 Matthew 24:35 Luke 16:17

- It is God's word **preserved** by God.
- It lays open our **heart** and discerns our **spiritual health**.
- It gives us **direction, purpose, forgiveness, healing**.
- It is a living tool that gives us **life**, and the **power** to live it.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 11, 2018

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. What are three to five words you would use to describe the Bible?

How would you describe the impact of the Bible on your life?

2. We heard this weekend that the Bible is textually and archaeologically accurate, giving us life and the power to live it! Why do you think so many believers struggle with making it a regular part of their lives?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We clearly saw this week in Hebrews that God's word can be powerful in our lives! Yet the ultimate goal of studying and knowing the Bible is not simply to fill our minds with biblical information; it's to change the way we think about God and the way we live. How do the following verses speak to this insight?

Philippians 1:9-11 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Colossians 1:9-14 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you ¹³ to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹⁴ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Can you think of how knowing Scripture has helped you in a similar way as described in these verses? If so, how?

2. Most of us have experienced the challenge of understanding the Bible and applying it to our lives. Psalm 119 (the longest chapter in the Bible) gives us an inside look at how the writer is working hard to keep Scripture active in his life and how he's staying connected with God in the midst of "crazy" circumstances. As you read through the various sections of this Psalm, what attitudes and actions do you see the author doing to keep God's word alive in his life?

Psalm 119:1-8 *New International Version (NIV)*

⌲ Aleph

¹ Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

² Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—
³ they do no wrong
but follow his ways.
⁴ You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.
⁵ Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!
⁶ Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.
⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.
⁸ I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.

Psalm 119:9-16 *New International Version (NIV)*

ב Beth

⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.
¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.
¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.
¹² Praise be to you, LORD;
teach me your decrees.
¹³ With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.
¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.
¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.
¹⁶ I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.

Psalm 119:49-56 *New International Version (NIV)*

ז Zayin

⁴⁹ Remember your word to your servant,
for you have given me hope.
⁵⁰ My comfort in my suffering is this:
Your promise preserves my life.
⁵¹ The arrogant mock me unmercifully,
but I do not turn from your law.
⁵² I remember, LORD, your ancient laws,
and I find comfort in them.
⁵³ Indignation grips me because of the wicked,
who have forsaken your law.
⁵⁴ Your decrees are the theme of my song
wherever I lodge.
⁵⁵ In the night, LORD, I remember your name,
that I may keep your law.
⁵⁶ This has been my practice:
I obey your precepts.

Psalm 119:65-72 *New International Version (NIV)*

ט Teth

⁶⁵ Do good to your servant
according to your word, LORD.
⁶⁶ Teach me knowledge and good judgment,
for I trust your commands.
⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I obey your word.
⁶⁸ You are good, and what you do is good;

teach me your decrees.
69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies,
I keep your precepts with all my heart.
70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling,
but I delight in your law.
71 It was good for me to be afflicted
so that I might learn your decrees.
72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me
than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

Looking back at what you wrote, are there any actions or attitudes you might want to consider when it comes to keeping Scripture an active part of your life?

TAKING IT HOME

We are incredibly fortunate that the Bible is so accessible to us. We are also fortunate there are a variety of ways to get God's word into our lives, given that we all learn and understand things differently. As you look at the list below, circle any of the following ways that help you understand the Bible better:

- Listening to it being taught/sermons
- Reading it yourself
- Listening to Bible audio apps/recordings
- Discussing it with others
- Memorizing it
- Journaling/note taking
- Other

How might trying a different way of learning be important?

Take a moment to evaluate the level of attention you've been giving the Bible and how you're getting it into your life regularly. Are there any changes you need to make?

Praise/Prayer Requests:



Whether you're at the start of your journey with Jesus, or a long time follower, Scripture is God's communication and gift to us. Here's another way to keep God's word in your life. The **Read Scripture App** and **The Bible Project** both offer a reading plan along with engaging and accessible videos that help us see how the Bible is a unified story leading to Jesus.

Read Scripture App – readscripture.org & [iTunes App Store](https://itunes.apple.com) or [Google Play](https://play.google.com)

The Bible Project - thebibleproject.com/

HOW TO
ENJOY
READING
YOUR BIBLE

Check out this upcoming event! Keith Ferrin, author of *How To Enjoy Reading Your Bible*, will share his relational approach to the Bible and helpful tips that you can start using today.

Date/Time/Location: Fri., Feb. 23, 6:30pm at the Vista Campus in The Edge

Cost: \$5/person. Childcare is available with pre-registration.

Register: Online at northcoastchurch.com/classes