

Lesson 1 – Why I Can Trust The Bible

2 Peter 3:18 – *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*

Thesis: This lesson is designed to teach the importance of the inspiration of the Scriptures and to discover who is responsible for its content.

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

1. Why Does The Origin Of The Bible Matter?

- A. Based on a scale of 1% to 100%, how much knowledge of all things actual and possible in eternity past, present and future do you think a man has? Say man has 1% of knowledge. What claims of absolute truth can a man on such a small island of knowledge make? Would you want to base your life, or your eternity on 1% of knowledge?
- B. Now consider this thought, how much knowledge does God have?
† Psalm 147:5 – *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*
 - 1) Would you be willing to base your life and eternity on the truth of God, who has perfect knowledge, who loves you, and wants what is best for you?
 - 2) What worries would there be if man wrote the Bible then? _____
 - 3) What worries would there be if God wrote the Bible? _____
- C. How you view the Bible will determine how you live your life. If you view the Bible as man's word written to you, then its impact will be no greater than any other book written by man. But, if you view the Bible as God's Perfect Word written to you, it will change your life. In other words, your growth as a Christian is in direct proportion to "how" you view the Bible.

2. Who is the Enemy Of The Bible?

- A. If God's Word is so vitally important to us, if it is our Rock and Foundation, who do you think is busy attacking the Word? _____
† Read Genesis 3:1-4
- B. When Satan came to tempt and destroy Adam and Eve with sin, what is the first thing he does in Genesis 3:1? _____
 - 1) In Genesis 3:3 Eve quotes God's Word to Satan but how does Satan reply in verse 4? _____
 - 2) When Satan came to Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 he tried to cause Him to give into temptation at one point by even quoting the Bible (v.6) and using God's Word _____.
 - 3) In Luke 8:11-12, what is Satan doing to keep unbelievers from being saved?
† Luke 8:11-12 — *Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*
- C. Satan will attack the Word of God in the believer's life, for he knows if he can get you to doubt and deny the Word, you will be defeated.

3. Who Is The Author Of The Bible, God Or Man?

- A. Some argue that, *"The Bible is not God's Word, men wrote what they wanted to write in the Bible."* How would you respond to this?
- B. **Question:** Because someone writes something, does that automatically make them the author of the writing? _____
- 1) Example – *If my hand were broken and I ask you if you could write a letter for me to my mother and I'll tell you exactly word for word what I want it to say, whose message would it be?*
 - 2) You would merely be the _____ that I would need to pen down what I want to say.

4. The Inspiration Of The Scriptures

A. What does Biblical Inspiration mean?

- 1) **Definition:** Inspiration refers to *"the supernatural guidance of the writers of Scripture by the Spirit of God, so that what they wrote was the Divine Word of God, transcribed accurately, reliably, and without error."*
- 2) The 2 elements to inspiration are:
 - a. The Scriptures did not come from the will or origin of _____. Man did not write what he thought he should.
 - b. God, The Holy Ghost, supernaturally moved the writers of Scripture to pen down the words of God accurately, reliably, and without any error.

B. Biblical Evidence of the Inspiration of the Scriptures

- † **2 Timothy 3:16–17** — *16; All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17; That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*
- 1) According to **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, who inspired the Scriptures? _____
 - 2) What does *"inspiration of God"* mean? This phrase in the Greek (*theopneustos*), literally means "God-_____". This verse is telling us that "God-Breathed" out the Scriptures to man.
 - 3) The men who wrote the Scriptures were the _____ hands that God used to write His Words to man, they wrote God's Word and not their own.
 - 4) How much of the Scriptures claim to be inspired (**2 Tim. 3:16a**)? _____
 - 5) If "all" the Scriptures are inspired, does that mean we can trust every word and letter? ___
- † **2 Peter 1:20–21** — *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21; For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
- 1) (v. 20) *"Knowing this first"* – Here Peter highlights the first principle we must know as we study the Word of God. What is this first principle?
 - a. *"Prophecy"* is the divine revelation from God to man.
 - b. *"Private interpretation"* – This speaks of originating from man as the source.
 - c. How much of God's "prophecy" (the Scriptures) came by private interpretation (personal origin or source)? _____
 - d. Here Peter is saying, the very first thing you must understand is that God's revelation to us, the Scriptures, did not originate from man because man is not the source.
 - 2) (v. 21a) *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man"*
 - a. *"Will"* comes from the Greek word *"thelema"* and means "what one wishes or has determined shall be done."
 - b. What vital truth does Peter again reinforce in verse 21? _____

6) (V. 21b) *“but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”*

a. Who does Peter say “moved” these writers to speak? _____

7) So according to Peter, the Scriptures were not given by _____, but rather they were given by _____.

5. Jesus’ Testimony Concerning The Scriptures

A. Did Jesus believe the scriptures?

† **Matthew 5:18** – *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

1) **Jot** – smallest Hebrew letter

2) **Tittle** – small marking separating one letter from another – example of our “O” and “Q”.

3) **Question** - How certain was Jesus that the scriptures would be fulfilled? He said that _____ and _____ would pass away from existence before the smallest marking in the Scriptures would pass away and not be fulfilled!

† **Matthew 22:24-32** – Jesus focused on the present tense verb “_____” in verse 32.

† **John 17:17** – *Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy word is truth*

6. The Human Authors’ Testimonies Of Scriptures’ Inspiration

A. Did the human writers of scripture believe what they wrote was from God, or did they believe they were writing their own words down?

B. **Fact:** Over _____ times Old Testament writers claim they are writing the words of God.

† **Deuteronomy 6:1** — *Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:*

C. Did the New Testament writers believe the Old Testament was trustworthy?

1) **Fact:** Over _____ times the New Testament directly quotes the Old Testament, and there are at least _____ references to the Old Testament in the New.

2) Who did Paul say taught him what to say in **Galatians 1:11-12** and **1Corinthians 11:23**?

† **Galatians 1:11-12** - *But I certify (or make known) to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man (or according to man). For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

† **1 Corinthians 11:23** - *For I (Paul) have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you...*

3) Who did Paul say was the one speaking through Isaiah in **Acts 28:25**? _____

† **Acts 28:25**- *Well spake the Holy Ghost by Isaiah the prophet unto our fathers.*

D. The Apostle John who wrote the gospel of John, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and the book of Revelation, began each of the letters to the seven churches in Revelation with the following statement: *These things saith [the Spirit]* (Rev. 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14). Then at the end of each letter he said, *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches* (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). Who did John claim was behind the words and message he wrote?

Conclusion

If God claimed He was the one responsible for what is written in the Bible, and the human writers claim God was the one responsible for what was written in the Bible, who should we believe is the author of the Bible? _____ Where should we go whenever we have a question? _____ Who do you believe wants you to have doubts in the Word of God? _____ If Satan can cause you to believe God’s Word has errors in it, you will never grow as a Christian because, in effect, you

believe _____ has errors and flaws and cannot be trusted, which is exactly what Satan wants you to think. Since the Bible is God's Word and not man's, should it have authority in our lives? _____

Homework

Lesson 1 – Why I Can Trust The Bible

2 Peter 3:18 – *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.*

Name: _____ Life Group Leader: _____

Memory Verse: _____

1) In your own words, why can you trust the Bible? _____

2) Name two passages that teach God is the author of Scripture: _____

3) What does the phrase "Inspiration of God" mean? _____

4) How much of the Scriptures are inspired? _____

5) According to Peter what is the first principle to understand when studying the Word of God? _____

6) How much of the Scripture "came by the will of man"? _____

7) According to Matthew 5:18, how much of the Bible did Jesus believe would come to pass? Every _____
and _____

8) What is a "jot"? _____

9) What is a "tittle"? _____

10) What will "pass" before God's Word goes unaccomplished? _____ and _____

11) What is truth according to Jesus in John 17:17? _____

12) What are the only 3 possibilities concerning Jesus' testimony to the Scriptures? _____

13) Give examples of the human writers of Scripture believing what they wrote was from God: _____

14) Summarize what you learned from this lesson. What did you find helpful to your Christian life from this topic of Biblical Inspiration? _____

Any questions or comments for your class leaders: _____

Class leader's signature of completion _____

