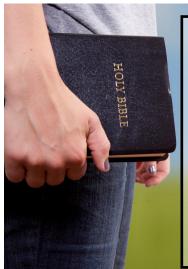
have been changed and redeemed by it. A few examples include C.S. Lewis, a former atheist who became one of world's leading Christian apologists, and John Newton, a former slave-ship master who converted to Christianity and penned "Amazing Grace."

What does the Bible say to us?

Good News! Jesus came to fulfill God's promise to defeat sin's curse and be the Savior for all people. His death and resurrection create the only way to be forgiven for our sins. As we emulate the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, Jesus takes away our guilt, shame, and regret. So, we can have a "new" life and share this hope with others.

The above reasons to trust the Bible are just a few of the many. But do not stop here! Keep digging deeper and strengthen your faith by understanding why God's Word is accurate, reliable, and worth following with your life! Our series will focus on reasonable causes why you can trust the Bible!



TAKE-HOME LESSONS

- 1. A SOBER THOUGHT: Psalm 119:159, God "considers" how you love His word. Does love fail to read?
- 2. A SATISFYING THOUGHT: Psalm 119:47, 97 you can find "delight."
- 3. A CONFIDENT THOUGHT: The Bible IS God's Word! 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
- 4. AN ENABLING THOUGHT: You have amazing power in your hands. Romans 1:16





The Bible is the one single book that has exerted a powerful and profound influence over man since it was penned. Daniel Webster, "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible our country will go on prospering, but if we and our posterity neglect its instruction and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury us and our glory in profound obscurity."

How does the world view the Bible?

- "It is a good book, but only a good book—nothing divine."
- "It is collection of morality stories that are characteristic of ancient nations (i.e. Beowulf)." Note: Beowulf is an Old English epic poem in the tradition of Germanic heroic legend. It is one of the most important and most often translated works of Old English literature produced between 975 and 1025.
- "The Bible CONTAINS the Word of God but is not the Word of God." (Some absurdly appeal to the "red letter passages" as only God's Word).
- "The Bible was a good book for previous generations, BUT our current generation and culture have surpassed the bigotry and inequities found in the Bible."
- "The Bible is the very word of God and the final authority in our lives—socially, religiously, morally, civically!" Amazing to note that this is stated both devoutly and hypocritically.

How do YOU view the Bible?

Psalm 1:2; 119:47, 97—"Delight" refers to one's greatest interest.

A troubling fact in Psalm 119:159, "Consider how I love your word." Literally to "see, look at, inspect, careful attention focused."

Interesting, Helpful, and Profitable Facts

• It is among the oldest books in the world and in fact it is THE OLDEST Book in the world!

Even though this is the oldest Book, it has never become obsolete with the passing of years.

It is just as fresh today as when it came from the hand that penned it. What other Book has stood this test? Scientists cannot get ahead of it. Human progress cannot overtake it or go beyond it. Every generation born upon earth finds the Bible waiting for it, with its fresh and never-failing stores of wisdom touching everything that affects humanity.

• There is the amazing character of the writings that are contained within this brief book.

Nothing but the superintending of a divine Author could be responsible for the production of a Book such as this!

• The power of this Book is an awesome point to consider.

Romans 1:16; Hebrews 4:12; Jeremiah 23:29; 5:14. Within this Book resides a supernatural power: It convicts sin and awakens consciousness; It will judge on the last day (John 12:48); Its message gives light to the world (Philippians 2:15); It works in those who believe (1 Thessalonians 2:13); It makes available the glorious life of God (John 5:24).

• It has withstood the bitterest of hatreds, and has overcome all!

The Bible has faced a persistent enemy from its beginning. This enemy has sought to destroy it completely and to erase its words from this world's memory. How can we explain this indestructibility of the Bible? Hebrews 4:12—it is living and active! Nothing can ever overwhelm it!

• The Bible is the only thing in the world that claims to exercise authority and dominion over ALL men!

No matter what tongue you speak or citizenship you hold—this Book speaks to you in a most authoritative way.

This Book has never been equaled by any other literature of civilization!

Concluding Thoughts...

Unfortunately to the unbeliever all of this, which to us is irrefutable, is not at all convincing!

The universe is the great Book of God for those who will believe. The Bible is likewise His written Word. Those who will receive and obey the Bible will find blessings untold!

Supplemental Consideration

The Bible is God's voice in written form. It is a collection of 66 books, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and written by more than 40 authors over 1,500 years. Later writings and archeology have confirmed that Bible people, places, and events were real. Biblical authors include: national leaders (Moses & Joshua); prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel); disciples (Peter, James, John); and Gospel-sharers (Paul).

There are a number of reasons why we can answer the question "is the Bible true" with a resounding "yes." Here are five reasons why...

1. Documentation

There is significantly more documentation for the books of the Bible than there are for other historically recognized authors and literature, including Plato and others.

2. Archeological findings

Excavation sites and artifacts also provide evidence that many of the events, people, and places mentioned in the Bible really existed, including the Hittite people and the city of Jericho.

3. Eyewitness accounts

The Gospels give multiple points of view and, in many cases, were written within the lifetimes of the people who witnessed the events recorded in the Bible. Writers focused on different aspects, but they had the same message: Jesus taught, healed, performed miracles, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

4. The life of Jesus

The fact that Jesus was a real, historical person is clearly documented by Jewish manuscripts, even before the Apostle Paul and the writers of the Gospels provided their eyewitness accounts. Other ancient cultural documents also reference his existence. For example, the Roman leader and historian, Tacitus, wrote:

"Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus..."

5. Redeemed lives

We see evidence of the Bible's trustworthiness by the lives that