

Is the Bible Accurate and Reliable?

If a book were inspired by the God of all creation, we would assume:

- It would **CLAIM** to be the **WORD OF GOD**.
- The events it **CLAIMS** happened actually **HAPPENED**.
- The authors would be **TRUSTWORTHY**.
- The book would be **UNIFIED** in thought and void of **CONTRADICTIONS**.
- We would have received **ACCURATE** copies of the original manuscripts.
- It would know things **BEYOND** human understanding and discovery.
- It would make **PREDICTIONS** about the future that could not be known through **NATURAL** means.
- The message would be **UNIQUE**.
- The messengers would be **CONFIRMED** by **MIRACLES**.
- The words would have a **TRANSFORMING** power.

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of January 26, 2020

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?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1 Interacting with God's Word is an important part of the Christian life. Put a checkmark next to the following descriptions that best describe how you are currently doing or feeling about learning the Bible.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Going through the motions | <input type="checkbox"/> Not getting much out of it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent | <input type="checkbox"/> Only reading the Bible to do Life Group homework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needing more direction | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss it when I don't read it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frustrated | <input type="checkbox"/> Bored |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confused | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know where to begin | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning a lot of helpful things |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

2 Despite the facts the Bible is accurate, reliable and has the power to transform our lives, it still seems many Christians struggle to make it a regular part of their lives. Why do you think that is true?

DIGGING DEEPER

1 The following passages all deal with the positive impact the Word can have in our lives when we are willing to obey it. Make a list of all the benefits you find in the following passages that come from doing what God's Word says to do.

Psalms 19:7-14 New International Version (NIV)

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
 than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
 than honey from the honeycomb.
¹¹ By them your servant is warned;
 in keeping them there is great reward.
¹² But who can discern their own errors?
 Forgive my hidden faults.
¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins;
 may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
 innocent of great transgression.
¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
 be pleasing in your sight,
 LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 1:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

¹ Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.

Psalm 119:97-104 New International Version (NIV)

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law!
 I meditate on it all day long.
⁹⁸ Your commands are always with me
 and make me wiser than my enemies.
⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers,
 for I meditate on your statutes.
¹⁰⁰ I have more understanding than the elders,
 for I obey your precepts.
¹⁰¹ I have kept my feet from every evil path
 so that I might obey your word.

¹⁰² I have not departed from your laws,
for you yourself have taught me.

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ I gain understanding from your precepts;
therefore I hate every wrong path.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Looking back at your list of benefits, which of these have you experienced in your life?

Which of these benefits do you need the most right now?

Which of these benefits motivate you most to pursue the Word?

Are there any changes you could make to experience even more of these benefits?

2

We heard this weekend that the Bible has the power to transform lives. Scripture uses various metaphors to explain this transformational power. For each verse below, jot down how the metaphor used to describe the Bible can impact people.

Hebrews 4:12 New International Version (NIV)

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Jeremiah 23:29 New International Version (NIV)

²⁹ "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

Psalms 119:105 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

Ephesians 6:17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

How have you seen the Bible have this kind of impact on your life or someone else's life?

3

The Bible tells us to be doers of what it says and not just hearers. Solomon, King David's son, is an interesting case study of someone who experienced God's blessing and knew a lot, but still chose to disobey God. Read 1 Kings 4:29-34 and 10:23-25. Write down how God blessed Solomon.

1 Kings 4:29-34 New International Version (NIV)

Solomon's Wisdom

²⁹ God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. ³⁰ Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ He was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Kalkol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations. ³² He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. ³³ He spoke about plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also spoke about animals and birds, reptiles and fish. ³⁴ From all nations people came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom

1 Kings 10:23-25 New International Version (NIV)

²³ King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. ²⁴ The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart. ²⁵ Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules.

Now read 1 Kings 11:1-13 and list as many reasons as you can find for why Solomon stopped being a doer of God's Word.

1 Kings 11:1-13 New International Version (NIV)

Solomon's Wives

¹¹ King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. ² They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely

turn your hearts after their gods.” Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. ³ He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. ⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. ⁵ He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done.

⁷ On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁸ He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

⁹ The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. ¹⁰ Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD’s command. ¹¹ So the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. ¹² Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. ¹³ Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.”

What were the consequences of the bad decisions Solomon made?

Can you think of any specific reasons that lead a person to do the opposite of what he/she knows God wants him/her to do?

Have you seen any consequences in your life from decisions you’ve made that were clearly against God’s Word? If so, what were they?

TAKING IT HOME

1

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?

2

Looking back on this week’s sermon and study, what is most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out NorthCoastCommunityService.org