

are available for examination to any interested person.

5. Fulfilled prophecies witness to the Bible's accuracy. For instance, different Bible writers, in various locations and at separate times, living hundreds of years before Christ, predicted that he would:

- *Be born of a virgin* (Isaiah 7:14; see Luke 2:26–35).
- *Be born in Bethlehem* (Micah 5:2; see Luke 2:4–7).
- *Live a sinless life* (Isaiah 53:9; see 2 Cor. 5:21).
- *Be put to death* (Isaiah 53:5, 7; see Matt. 27:35).
- *Jesus cry from the cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (Psalm 22:1; see Matthew 27:46).

6. The Bible's remarkable unity and coherence confirm its authenticity. It reveals a single author - the Holy Spirit - behind the diversity of its human writers. (2 Peter 1:20–21, Ephesians 3:5).

The Bible is not just a jumble of characters, places, and dates. It has an amazing continuity, as both the fact and the message of the Bible are closely and amazingly interconnected to reveal God's Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and His part in human redemption and restoration.

The sixty-six books comprising the Bible fit together as one book with one theme: **Jesus Christ** - the Saviour of mankind.

7. The Bible is confirmed by its power to transform lives. Its message exploded on the human scene in New Testament times to turn the world "upside down" (Acts 17:6).

There is power in the Bible's message. From the time of Christ, the apostles and in

Paul's time to the present day, the power of the Gospel has changed lives - (Hebrews 4:12; 1Thessalonians 2:13).

Only those countries affected by the Gospel have seen any real social progress - the guarantee of human rights, fair treatment of children and women, medical advances, and freedom from slavery, among other things.

The Bible is the only book ever written which gives satisfactory answers to life's ultimate questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? What is the purpose of life?

THE BIBLE - You can believe it and trust it.

- It is light to the mind - Psalm 119:105
- It is eternal and will last forever - Isaiah 40:8
- It is from God himself - 2 Peter 1:19-21
- It is the basis of our faith - 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

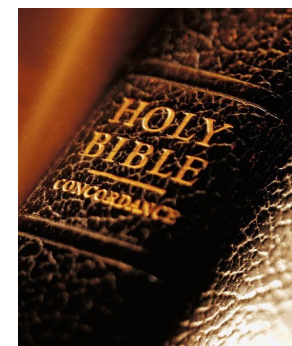
How well do you know the Author of the Bible? How often do you read his letters?

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- John 8:36
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DO YOU KNOW?

The Bible IS God's Word

It is a wonderful experience as Christians to gather in Jesus' name and study the Bible - which is God's Word. In our meetings, we truly enjoy our studies together as we consider many different topics in the light of what God says.

It is good from time to time to review some of the Bible basics that hold us together in Christian unity. They are Bible truths that are believed and taught by many Christian denominations and by which Christians are spiritually linked forever!

We can know the specific basic Biblical truths that form the unity of the Christian Faith. There are core truths laid out for us in the Bible, which are among the most significant and essential elements that form the basis of Christian Faith.

The Bible

The Bible is God's Word (Psalm 119, 1Thessalonians 2:13). It teaches the history of mankind's creation and fall, and the promise of salvation through Christ.

The Bible has stood the test of time and withstood all the attacks levelled by its critics. Without absolute trust in the pure, inspired Word of God, the Christian has no basis for his faith.

Some uninformed Christians or sincere doubters question the authority of the Bible, believing that it is just a collection of

myths and inaccuracies. Three things characterize almost everyone who has difficulty accepting the authority of the Scripture:

- They seldom, if ever, bother to read the Bible. They speak from ignorance.
- They approach the Bible with prejudiced ideas learned from Bible critics and their writings. It is biased information.
- They are not acquainted with God, the Bible's "Author" - (Hebrews 11:1).

Can we trust the Bible? Yes!

What Is Our Reason and Authority for Believing the Bible?

1. The Bible itself claims to be the inspired Word of God: *"All Scripture (Bible content) is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (right living), so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2Timothy 3:16-17, NIV).*

"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20-21, NIV).

2. Jesus and the apostles confirmed the authenticity of the Old Testament, quoting it scores of times in their writings and ministries. Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth,*

until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished" (Matthew 5:18, NIV). Peter quoted David's words to substantiate the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:29-36).

3. The historical church has recognized and used the Bible as God's inspired record of Himself and His will.

The Bible has always been the ultimate rule of faith and practice for the true church.

4. History and archaeology combine to confirm the accuracy of the Bible.

The historical record is obvious and indisputable. Many of the places mentioned in the Bible can easily be identified, even today. Hundreds of archaeological sites have yielded ample evidence to substantiate the Christian's claim that the Bible can be trusted. Many ancient manuscripts of the Bible have been preserved to the present day; among them:

• **The Dead Sea Scrolls** confirm either fragments of, or the complete text of, all the books of the Old Testament except Esther. Some manuscripts go back to the second and third centuries before Christ.

• **There are many genuine Bible Manuscripts.** The *Septuagint* (Greek Translation of the Old Testament) dates from 250 B.C. *Codex Sinaiticus*, containing the entire New Testament and parts of the Old Testament, dates from about 330 A.D.

All of these documents, and many more,